

Hamas denies switch in stand on accord

AMMAN (AP) — A Muslim fundamentalist group waging a campaign to derail the Palestinian self-rule accord denied Tuesday reports that it was backing away from its opposition to the Middle East peace process. The denial by the spokesman of the Hamas group followed a statement by an Israeli minister that the group was considering joining the peace process. Israel Radio reported Monday that Hamas had offered to Palestine Liberation Organisation officials in Tunis to contest July 1994 elections for a Palestinian self-rule authority envisaged under the Israel-PLO accord. Mohammed Nazzal, representative of Hamas in Jordan, categorically denied the reports. "Hamas' position is final. We will boycott the elections," Mr. Nazzal told the Associated Press. Commenting on Israel Radio reports that Hamas had made overtures to PLO officials in Tunis, Mr. Nazzal said: "This is incorrect information. Such reports serve as propaganda by Israel and (PLO Chairman Yasser) Arafat to show that the PLO leader has contacts with Hamas." Mr. Nazzal said that his group has no plans for talks with the PLO at this stage.

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King receives Omani message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a message from Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id of Oman. The message was delivered to King Hussein by Omani Minister of Court Seif Ben Hamad Ben Saud, who was received in an audience attended by Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki and the Omani ambassador to Jordan.

Israeli wounded

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — A Palestinian on Tuesday stabbed and seriously wounded a Jewish worker in an Israeli industrial zone in the occupied Gaza Strip, Israel Radio and hospital staff said. The Israeli army said they were checking the report. The radio quoted police as saying an Arab stabbed the worker in the back at the Erez industrial zone, a few hundred metres from the border checkpoint separating the Gaza Strip from Israel. A spokeswoman for Barzilai hospital in Ashkelon said the 19-year-old man was in serious condition.

ALF 'splits'

TUNIS (AFP) — A rift has appeared in one of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) groups opposing last month's autonomy deal with Israel, as Arab Liberation Front (ALF) dissidents disown their leaders, fighting the deal. In a statement issued Monday night, Jamil Shabata who styled himself "spokesman" of the pro-Iraqi ALF, said an "interior leadership" had been set up which wanted to stay in the PLO and abide by the decisions of the executive body. The "ALF-General Command" announced it was withdrawing its support for Nassif Awad and Mahmoud Ismail, respectively the ALF's general-secretary and its representative on the PLO Executive Committee.

Israel wants collaborators safe

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel wants Palestinians to ensure the safety of thousands of Arab collaborators who it withdraws from occupied territories, Israeli security sources said Tuesday. They said Israeli negotiators, due to open talks with Palestinians in Egypt on Wednesday on implementing a self-rule deal, hope to link the request on collaborators to a release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. They said there is concern some 5,000 Arabs — collaborators and their families — could face reprisals under Palestinian authority.

Gulf state in secret talks with Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A Gulf state has proposed to build a gas pipeline to Israel, Energy Minister Moshe Shahal told Tuesday's Jerusalem Post. "Arabs from a Gulf state visited Israel last month," Mr. Shahal told the daily, saying they proposed to construct the pipeline to Eilat on the Red Sea. "We offered our suggestions and now we are waiting to hear from them... by the end of the month," he said. Mr. Shahal, who is also police minister, refused to name the country but described the visitors as "Gulf governmental people, but not necessarily officials today. They are well plugged in."

Papandreu forms new cabinet

ATHENS (AFP) — Prime Minister-designate Andreas Papandreou, the veteran Greek Socialist who made a spectacular political comeback in elections this weekend, presented the country's new cabinet members on Tuesday. The 74-year-old Papandreou, whose administration from 1981-89 was marred by scandals and corruption, named Carlos Papoulias foreign minister and Theodoros Panagiotis deputy foreign minister in charge of European affairs. Georges Papandreou, the prime's son, was named state secretary in the foreign ministry.

King: Decision to hold elections taken in order to uphold democracy; Jordan will press ahead with peace process

Monarch emphasises need to preserve national unity, commitment to Palestinians and pledges to develop well-studied approach to cooperation

No recognition of any sovereignty over Jerusalem except by Almighty God

King calls on religious mosque preachers to stay away from politicking
'No rumour-mongering or vilification of security departments will be tolerated'

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that his decision to go ahead with holding the general elections as scheduled was prompted by his commitment to democracy, desire to continue to set Jordan as an example and the need to preserve national unity.

The King, in a nation-wide broadcast on television and radio, called on Jordanians to take part in the elections and exercise their right to participation in decision-making in an atmosphere of brotherhood, freedom and absolute integrity.

He said the elections would not have bearing on the rights of Jordanian voters of Palestinian origin to "choose what they please when the choice of return or compensation of both becomes available to them."

Underlining the importance of Jerusalem, the King ex-

pressed hope the Holy City would be a "meeting point and a symbol of Palestinian-Israeli and Arab-Israeli peace, of peace among the children of Abraham."

He emphasised, however, that the commitment of the Hashemites towards the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem remains unchanged and pledged continued Jordanian support for their restoration.

"We did not, nor will we ever, recognise any sovereignty over them except by Almighty God, as indeed with the Holy Places of all believers in God in this most Holy City," the King said.

The King invited Arabs and Muslims to establish a "venerable, ooo-political religious body, representing the five Islamic sects, to look after the affairs of the Muslim Holy Places in Jerusalem."

The King also called for an Arab-Muslim dialogue, as well

as a Muslim-Christian dialogue aimed at unifying ranks in view of the historic ties binding them.

"This would then be followed by a comprehensive dialogue among the adherents of the three monotheistic religions," he said. "Should a formula emerge that would preserve rights and protect the Holy Places, we would then look into it."

See page 4 for full text of the King's address

The Monarch called on mosque preachers not to indulge in political work at the place of worship. "In this compassionate democratic climate Jordan is enjoying, I urge the few among those who climb the pulpit of the Prophet, those in positions of responsibility, who have, in the past, tended to pronounce on matters with which they have no right to deal and should not pronounce

on ... " the King said.

Similarly, the King called on the media to "set aside flowery language that has no content and shun negativity unbalanced by responsibility."

"They should once and for all refrain from vilifying people here and there, whether Arab or foreign, especially those who are in positions of leadership in this world or heads of state," the King said.

The King renewed his call on the Palestinian people to unite and be steadfast behind the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in following up the Israel-PLO agreement towards achieving the restoration of their rights based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The King said he would not tolerate any "rumour-mongering and vilification" of the Kingdom's security forces, including the General Intelligence and Public Security Departments. "We shall not act

"rescue the West Bank or to represent the Palestinians" until the early 70s.

"Then there occurred the war of 1973, of which we knew only when it started," said the King, recalling that Jordan contributed immediately to defending the Syrian front. In the aftermath of that war, Jordan was unable to achieve an Israeli withdrawal on the Jordanian front despite repeated efforts.

After the war, Israel switched tactics and maintained the situation that it would only deal with Jordan in the context of the West Bank, he said.

Nating that Jordan, responding to an Arab summit resolution in 1974, extended recognition to the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, the King also recalled that Jordan continued to support the Palestinian struggle for liberation. Jordan signed an agenda



outlining the principles for a peace agreement with Israel on Sept. 14, one day after the Israel-PLO agreement was signed in Washington, "as an expression of our support for the mutual recognition between the Palestinians and Israel ...," the King said.

"We shall actively proceed now with what is necessary, first to lend support to our Palestinian brethren and cooperate with them on a carefully studied, planned and clear basis, both to protect them and us, and second, to deal firmly and resolutely with the many special and urgent issues which we face, with speed, care and precision," the King said.

PCC endorses Arafat-led Palestine National Authority

From Wafa Amr in Tunis with agency dispatches

TUNIS — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat basked in glory Tuesday after the Palestine Central Council (PCC) voted to ratify the Sept. 13 Israeli-PLO autonomy accord.

The PCC, the PLO's mini-parliament-in-exile, late Monday night also voted to set up a "Palestinian National Authority" (PNA) in the occupied territories.

A dwarfed opposition emerged from the ballot, whereby only eight out of a total 83 PCC members opposed the agreement, and 63 approved it, with nine abstentions.

However, the actual opposition to the accord is significant if the 24 opponents who boycotted the meeting were taken into consideration. Both opponents and proponents of the accord criticised it and expressed serious concerns about the future.

A senior PLO official said

said he voted against the accord. So did Shafik Al Hout, the PLO ambassador to Libya, who last month suspended his membership of the PLO Executive Committee to protest the autonomy accord.

"I am satisfied," Mr. Arafat told a news conference after the secret debate stretched over two nights and a day.

Three top members of Mr. Arafat's dominant Fatah group did not vote, delegates said. They included Farouk Kadoudi, chief of the PLO's Political Department. The other two were Abdu Zaki and Saker Habash.

But to a show of personal loyalty to Mr. Arafat, Mr. Kadoudi voted for the establishment of the "Palestinian National Authority" headed by Mr. Arafat in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Mohammad Abbas, a hard-line leader representing the Palestine Liberation Front,

(Continued on pag 3)



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan upon his return home (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan returns after successful visits

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned home Tuesday after visits to the United States, Britain the Vatican and France.

His Majesty King Hussein, members of the Royal family and senior officials received the Crown Prince upon his return home.

In brief comments to the press upon his arrival, the Crown Prince described his visits as highly successful.

During his visit to the U.S., the Crown Prince delivered a message from the King to President Bill Clinton, held a joint meeting with Mr. Clinton and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and held talks with senior administration officials as well

(Continued on pag 5)

Israel to allow 5,000 a year to return home

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Israel will raise the number of exiled Palestinians who may return to the occupied territories each year to 5,000, Israel and French spokesmen said.

The increase from about 1,000 a year was announced by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin during an international conference on refugees in Tunis, an Israeli spokesman said.

The spokesman said Mr. Beilin had told the conference that Israel was ready to process 2,000 cases a year, which would work out to 5,000 people.

France's delegation head Bernard Bajnai said the Israeli announcement had been made in the framework of a discussion of reunifying separated families.

"We are discussing the increase of those authorised to return from outside ... the question is now to know whether we could do more (than 5,000 people)," he told journalists at the end of the first working

group on refugees.

The Israeli spokesman said Mr. Beilin also announced that Israel decided to allow 10 Palestinians expelled during the 1970s for political activism to return with their families.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Mr. Beilin were to meet here Tuesday. The refugee meeting follows the Palestine Central Council ratification of the Palestinian autonomy deal signed in Washington last month, clearing the way for the first stage of autonomy due to start on Wednesday.

Mr. Beilin, the first senior Israeli official to visit Tunisia, represented his government at the three-day meeting which is part of the U.S.-brokered Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in late 1991.

Israeli and Palestinian delegates said the meeting would discuss specific projects related to the refugee issue, but they did not go into details.

"The most difficult thing before us is to find a solution to the refugee problem," Mr. Beilin said. "We are discussing the increase of those authorised to return from outside ... the question is now to know whether we could do more (than 5,000 people)," he told journalists at the end of the first working

(Continued on page 5)

Israel and PLO begin countdown to withdrawal

Combined agency dispatches

West Bank for the next five years.

CAIRO — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) start talks in Egypt on Wednesday to turn an outline peace agreement into a detailed plan for Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho by Dec. 13.

Almost every phrase in the historic declaration of principles on Palestinian self-rule that was signed by Israel and the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13 needs further negotiation.

Some difficult issues, such as the future of Palestinian prisoners held during the past six years of the intifada, are not mentioned in the document at all.

The declaration sets a tight timetable: Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho to start by Dec. 13 and be complete by April 13, and a Palestinian council to be elected by July 13 to run Gaza and the whole

Gaza Strip is expected to grind to a halt with shops closed and few vehicles on the roads.

No celebrations are planned to mark the start of autonomy.

Nor has Israel prepared any ceremonies and with nothing due to change on the ground soon even the settlers have announced a demonstration.

Following are the Palestinian members of the liaison committee, which will meet in Cairo:

Mahmud Abbas, Yasser Abd Rabbo, Mamdouh Nawfal, Ziad Abu Ziad, Ghassan Al Khatib and Freih Abu Medin.

Following are the Palestinian members of the "Gaza-Jericho" committee which will meet in Taba:

Nabil Sha'ath, Saleh Rafat, Nasser Yussef, General Fakhri Nakour, Amin Al Haneidi, Nizar Amar, Ahmad Al Khaldi and Hassan Astour.

The Israeli delegation to the

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Chali says U.N. saves U.S. from being world cop

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Monday it was in the interest of the United States to support the United Nations unless it wanted to play the role of the world's policeman by itself.

He told a small group of reporters that the American people, as well as key European nations such as France and Germany, were not interested in policing the entire world and were turning inward to their own domestic problems.

"So the leadership must help public opinion, must explain that today we are all in the same boat, that what is going wrong can have an impact on world society," he added.

The U.N. chief struck back at Washington's criticism of the U.N. operation in Somalia and its announcement last week that American troops would withdraw from the Horn of Africa country by March 31.

He spoke as Haitian plainclothes police prevented an American ship carrying 200 peacekeepers from docking in Port-au-Prince, shouting they would turn Haiti into a second Somalia and force the U.N. and U.S. to leave.

Dr. Ghali said that at the moment there was no other forum but the United Nations. "If the member states don't want to play the role of the policemen of the world, the sheriff of the world, they must [use] the United Nations."

He said he took no decisions in Haiti or Somalia that were not authorised by member states, including Washington.

The weakest part of all the actors in international relations is the United Nations," he said. "It's only value, if it has a value is a moral one (of) representing international society," based on resolutions adopted by member states.

"If the member states need to use the United Nations for their internal problems, the United Nations must accept it," he said in an indirect reference to the U.S. Congress' scathing criticism of U.N. operations in Somalia.

At the same time other U.N.



An American soldier checks the identity of U.N. headquarters at the former compound of Somali workers employed in reconstructing the U.S. embassy in Mogadishu (AP photo)

Iraq could make nuclear arms if U.N. lifts sanctions — IISS

LONDON (R) — Iraq could once again be in a position to make nuclear weapons if the United Nations lifted sanctions, a leading British research institute said Tuesday.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said that, despite lingering doubts as to whether Iraq has disclosed all its nuclear materials, it almost certainly does not have the ability currently to make nuclear weapons.

To this end Dr. Ghali intends to go to Addis Ababa on Oct. 20 to meet Africa and Arab leaders to prevent Somalia collapsing into chaos after the United States withdraws.

But he refused to blame the United States, whom U.N. officials consider responsible for the military strategy in Mogadishu, including the disastrous Oct. 3 raid.

Dr. Ghali played down the controversy with Washington, saying he needed U.S. support. "I must help the member states so they will be able to help me."

"We have had setbacks and we will have setbacks in the future. Don't ask us to be perfect. But without the support of member states, we have nothing," he said.

unable in its latest report to the U.N. state categorically that Baghdad had complied with the demand.

The London-based IISS said suspicions had also hardened that neighbouring Iran was developing nuclear weapons because it was buying aircraft and missiles capable of delivering nuclear munitions.

The think-tank also noted numerous press reports that Iran had recruited nuclear scientists and engineers from the former Soviet Union. There have been claims that it may have obtained a number of warheads from former Soviet republics.

But if Tehran does have a nuclear programme, it is still in its early stages. "In all probability Iran cannot hope to produce its own nuclear weapons before the year 2000 at the earliest," the IISS said.

There are strong suspicions that North Korea, which like Iran has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has also embarked on a nuclear weapons programme.

Although no evidence has been found, the institute asked why North Korea refused to let the IAEA inspect certain sites. "The simplest, but not necessarily the correct, reason

is that the government has something to hide and is perhaps, despite U.S. warnings, far closer to producing a nuclear weapon than had been supposed," the Military Balance said.

On a more optimistic note, the IISS said the treaty to reduce conventional forces in Europe, signed by members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the former Warsaw Pact, had got off to a good start.

Sixteen months after the party came into force, most countries were on course to meet interim targets for scrapping surplus weapons and its inspection process had been a success.

After some initial suspicion, both inspectors and inspected have discovered that inspections are an important confidence-building measure that have led to a much improved understanding of each other's problems and military philosophy," the think-tank said.

A new U.N. register of conventional arms, which aims to record the transfer of arms between countries, had also made a promising start during its first year of operation, it said.

UNESCO warns Christian leaders

PARIS (R) — The United Nations culture agency threatened Monday to take the church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem off its world heritage list unless Christian leaders allow the U.N. to supervise repair work.

Federico Mayor, director-general of the U.N. Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO), appealed to representatives of three Christian communities in the Holy City to save the church.

If they did not allow UNESCO to conduct safeguarding operations, "the monument would be in danger of losing the value that earned it a place on the world heritage list," Mr. Mayor told the agency's executive board.

Had the Christian leaders decided not to allow UNESCO to take part in current and future operations to preserve the monument, built on the presumed site of Jesus crucifixion. Most of the building dates back to the Crusader period.

The monument, in the Old City of Jerusalem, is in the custody of the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox and Armenian Churches, each of which jealously guards its rights.

Mouks sleep in the building at night and the key is traditionally held by a Muslim family because Christian sects did not trust each other to keep it.

The Ethiopian and Coptic churches also have chapels attached to the Holy Sepulchre.

A UNESCO statement said Mr. Mayor urged Christian leaders and governments which are guarantors of the religious status quo at the site.

France and Russia — to "consider the consequences of ongoing work, to rethink this work as well as future projects in the context of the monument's intrinsic value."

Cypriot strikes over queen's key

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot publisher has launched a hunger strike until authorities cancel plans to give Britain's Queen Elizabeth the key to

the body just like humans. Then the cat was buried in a cemetery."

Mr. Bakr is now focusing

excavation on ancient town dwellings, a royal palace,

scattered religious monu-

ments and sprawling graveyards containing human

skeletons.

The team's latest discovery is the limestone head of a lion, perhaps from a statue of Baster's son Mahes. The head, slightly bigger than life size, has a majestic face with nostrils flaring, delicately carved ears and a teardrop-shaped fine falling onto one cheek.

That discovery followed a major find in April 1992 when Mr. Bakr's team chanced upon a gold cache buried in two alabaster vases just outside the main temple's festival hall. The cache included delicate jewellery and tiny solid gold statues. It is uncertain why the gold was hidden. Priests may have buried it ahead of an invading army or stashed it away for personal use.

Queen Elizabeth is due in Cyprus ahead of the Commonwealth heads of government meeting which opens on Oct. 21.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gulf Arab army chiefs discuss cooperation

ABU DHABI (AP) — Chiefs of staff of the Saudi-led group of Gulf Arab states met Tuesday behind closed doors to discuss means of upgrading military cooperation. The recommendations of the senior officers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates will be on the agenda of the annual summit conference of their heads of state, scheduled for late December in Riyadh. "The heavy responsibilities placed on the armed forces to protect our borders, lands and legal rights, necessitate cooperation and coordination," said Lieutenant-General Sheikh Mohammad Ben Zayed, chief of staff of the UAE, which is the current chairman of the alliance. The six countries are grouped in the Gulf Cooperation Council, a 12-year-old collective security and economic pact for the Arab monarchies of the oil-rich region.

Police probe murder of Irishman in Bahrain

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain's police are investigating the murder several days ago of an Irishman, a spokesman said on Tuesday. The police spokesman identified the man as Thomas Burke but was unable to provide other details because the case was still under investigation. An Irish diplomat in Riyadh had said Monday that the authorities had made some arrests. Local media reports said three Bahrainis and one Saudi were under police custody in connection with the death. They said Burke, whose age they put at 22, was kicked to death after he emerged from a hotel well after midnight. The reports said he had come to Bahrain from Saudi Arabia to organise a rugby tournament.

Five more condemned in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — An Algiers court has sentenced five more Islamists to death for fundamentalist violence for which 13 were executed this week, newspapers said Tuesday. Algerian dailies said the sentence, after a trial of 48 men, was pronounced hours before the 13 were executed Monday. Two of the five were condemned in their absence, the government newspaper Al Mujahid said. The charges against them included murder, attempted killing, and undermining state security. Courts have now passed at least 287 death penalties in 20 months of violence blamed on armed Muslim militants. Many of those condemned are still on the run and some have been sentenced to death more than once in different trials. Al Mujahid said an Algiers special court acquitted four of the group and jailed the rest for terms between one and 20 years.

Dozens killed and injured in Afghan fighting

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Three days of fierce fighting in Kabul and nearby Jalalabad has killed and injured dozens of people, many of them civilians, according to news reports Tuesday.

The fighting in Kabul between rival Shi'ite and Sunni Muslims began Sunday with the thunderous roar of hundreds of rockets. Some newspapers reported 900 rockets fell on the capital in a single day. Afghanistan's Shi'ite Muslims, backed by Iran, have been battling for control of the western edge of the city for more than a year. Their fiercest opponents, Sunni Muslims of Ittehad-e-Islami, are believed to be heavily financed by Saudi Arabia, a longtime enemy of Iran's. Meanwhile, the English-language daily newspaper the Muslim reported that rebels loyal to Afghan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar waged a battle against local warlords in Jalalabad, about 75 kilometers west of the capital. A spokesman for the premier, Mengal Hussein, dismissed reports that rebels loyal to the prime minister were involved in fighting there.

Two British freelancers detained in Yemen

SANA'A (AP) — Two British journalists working on a television documentary have been detained for allegedly entering Yemen as tourists and working illegally, diplomats said Tuesday. They were identified as Ray Stillito and Abdul Mohammad Hassan, British nationals working for Clark Television, a freelance organisation in Britain. The journalist were working on a documentary for Britain's Channel 4. Diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the two Britons were detained Oct. 3 while working on a film about illegal visas and passports allowing people from Yemen to go to Britain. "No formal charges have been brought against them, but they have violated three things," said one of the diplomats. "They came in without accreditation, were filming without notifying the authorities, and filming an obviously sensitive subject." Assistant Attorney General Abdullah Ali Hadrami said he will question the two on Wednesday in the presence of British consul David Blagg and the head of their company, Bernard Clark, who had since arrived in the country. The two are being held in the guards quarters of the central prison, where conditions are relatively better than in the rest of the prison.

Security increased for Danish publisher

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Danish police have boosted protection for the Danish publisher of Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses," following an assassination attempt on the work's Norwegian publisher, they said Tuesday. Johannes Riis, head of the Samleren Publishing house, a subsidiary of Gyldendal, has been moved to safe place, police here said. A spokesman for the company declined to comment. William Nygaard, owner and director of the Norwegian publishing house Aschehoug Forlag, was in stable condition in an Oslo hospital on Tuesday after being operated for gunshot wounds Monday. Niels Barfoed, president of the Danish branch of Pen, the international writers organisation, said his group and a second Danish authors' association would appeal to the Danish government for stronger European Community action against Iran, including the threat of sanctions and breaking off diplomatic relations. "The time for silent diplomacy and official protests without effect is over," Mr. Barfoed told AFP.

Archaeologists race to study city of the sacred cats

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

ZAGAZIG, Egypt — Archaeologists are racing against urban sprawl to uncover the many lives of Bastet, the city of the sacred cats that is one of ancient Egypt's most important legacies.

For more than a century, excavators have made remarkable finds as they unearth the city named for the cat goddess Bastet: The ruins of the grand temple, sleek cat statues, and cemeteries holding thousands of mummified cats.

The toppled statues, columns and granite blocks on the grounds of the grand temple to Bastet retain a mystical aura. Infertile Muslim village women pour water over the statues of the creator god Ptah and Pharaoh Ramses II as they pray to become pregnant.

Three thousand years of history are told in the ruins, which are threatened by the rapid development of Zagazig, a city 80 kilometers north of Cairo.

A highway runs through the main dig site, which

archaeologists call Tell Basta. Its perimeter is being squeezed by encroaching apartment buildings and small businesses.

A series of amazing finds over the past 1½ years — including a cache of 150 gold items — points to the urgency of the archaeologists' task.

"It's rare to find a whole city. That's why what we're doing is so important," said Ibrahim Bakr, former chairman of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation who heads the dig at Tell Basta.

Bastet was rebuilt repeatedly over the centuries, one layer on top of another. For the excavator, Mr. Bakr said, the work is like "slicing through a cake."

The earliest reliefs predate Cheops, the pharaoh who built the Great Pyramid in Giza 4,600 years ago. The city was abandoned several hundred years after the arrival of Christianity in the 1st century.

As the worship of animals — particularly cats — came to dominate religious beliefs, Bastet became the site of ancient Egypt's largest religious festival. Ancient chroniclers wrote that up to

the ages and eventually became more of a friendly protector. Bastet was pictured either with a cat's or a lion's head.

Bastet is best known for its cat cemeteries, where for religious reasons thousands of mummified cats were tenderly wrapped and placed in underground vaults.

The cemeteries were largely destroyed before Mr. Bakr's team started its work, although they occasionally find statues of Bastet that were buried with the cat mummies. Similar bronze figures, depicting majestic cats with long legs and powerful muscles, can be found in museums around the world.

Ancient Egyptians were the first to domesticate the cat. According to tomb paintings, the cat was not only a household companion but also served as a bird-hunter on boating trips through the marshes.

"I often think of the ancient Egyptians and their beloved cats," said Mr. Bakr. "I can imagine when a cat died, the mourning family took it to the priests, who said last rites and mummified

the body just like humans. Then the cat was buried in a cemetery."

Mr. Bakr is now focusing

excavation on ancient town dwellings, a royal palace,

scattered religious monu-

ments and sprawling graveyards containing human

skeletons.

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"This site is under so much pressure, but so many secrets remain," Mr. Bakr said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mohammad Al Nabawi ... 819213

Dr. Jaffar Matarri ... 819213

Dr. Makhfi Halabi ... 819213

Dr. Jamal Jumaa ... 819213

Firat pharmacy ... 819213

Al Asmaa pharmacy ... 63705

Nairosh pharmacy ... 623672

Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ... 644945

Suntisan pharmacy ... 637660

Nairosh pharmacy ... 623672

Najib pharmacy ... 847632

Min./Max. temp. ... 15 / 30

Aqaba ... 22 / 35

Deserts ... 14 / 32

Jordan Valley ... 21 / 36

Home News

JORDAN TIMES, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1993 3

SAFER CROSSINGS: The new pedestrian tunnel at the University of Jordan. Officials, students and visitors Tuesday started to use the 30-metre-long tunnel connecting the main entrance to the university to the opposite side of the highway following the completion of its construction Monday evening. Construction workers and engineers worked 24 hours a day for one month to finish the eight-metre wide passage way. The Amman Municipality had diverted traffic from the University Road to facilitate completion of the project, according to a municipality official. The official told the Jordan Times that the project cost the municipality JD 87,000, of which JD 3,000 was donated by the family of Mona Al Saleh, a university student who was killed in one of the numerous accidents that occur-



red over the past years in front of the university. The Hussein Attieh Contract-

ing Firm, which constructed the tunnel, donated JD 6,000, he added.

The official said the tunnel is lit by night. He said other such passage ways

could be constructed at sites for the safety of pedestrians.

Intercountry quality of life consultation ends with praise for Jordanian experience

Jordan (J.T.) — An Intercountry Consultation on Accelerating the Basic Minimum Needs Quality of Life approach in the Eastern Mediterranean Region concluded Tuesday with praise for Jordanian experience.

Thirty experts in the field of development and health from Arab and Islamic countries participated in this consultation, which was organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in cooperation with the Al Hussein Foundation (JHF) and the Ministry of Health.

During four days of the meeting, they studied the possibilities of adopting and promoting the BMN/Quality of Life approach to meet the basic needs in countries of the region, through comparing the experiences of certain countries in this domain, and especially the Jordanian experience, which is being implemented by JHF and the ministry of health. During the first day of this

consultation, the experts reviewed the experiences of Thailand, Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Somalia, Iran and Sudan and thoroughly studied the Jordanian experience which is considered to be the most successful in the region.

The group visited the villages of Al Bassa, Iraq Al Amir and Sweimeh where JHF is implementing the Quality of Life Project in order to have first-hand knowledge of the Jordanian experience in meeting people's basic needs.

In these villages, the participants met with members of the Local Development Councils and the Supporting Technical Committees, as well as with the villagers. They listened to briefings on the development experience by the villagers and its effects on different aspects of their lives which the villagers said enabled them to invest their potential, activate their efforts in the service of their local societies and depend on themselves to improve their living standard.

The experts also visited different income-generating schemes in the villages, such as fish farming, Shami goat breeding, home gardening, broom making, sewing and tricot works.

The experts also saw model kitchens and bathrooms and participated in certain health education circles organised in the villages.

They described the JHF experience as a pioneer one and praised Noor Al Hussein Foundation's efforts joined with those of the ministry of health to apply this comprehensive approach to development.

Ahmad Abdullatif, regional advisor for Primary Health Care in the Regional Office of the World Health Organisation (WHO/EMRO) in Alexandria, Egypt, said the Jordanian experience is a source of pride to Jordan, the region and to WHO because of its admirable success.

Jordan, he said, will host the first training workshop on the same subject, as a first step in making Jordan and JHF a training site for the promotion and implementation of the Quality of Life Approach in countries in the region.

Based on shared country experiences, the consultation built consensus around the need to further expand and implement such projects in the region as an innovative approach that could make a substantial impact on the people's quality of life.

The countries which participated in this consultation are Egypt, Sudan, Tunisia, Somalia, Yemen, Morocco, Iran, Thailand and Jordan. It was also attended by the WHO representatives in Egypt, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Sudan.

At the end of the consultation, the participants sent cables to Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of Health Abdul Rahim

Malhas thanking each of them for their patronage and support.

In their message to the Queen, the participants commended Her Majesty's dedicated leadership for the welfare of the Jordanian people.

They added: "Your personal involvement in JHF's Quality of Life Project has given it light, direction and success and has illuminated the path for many of us to follow suit. What we have learned from the commendable Jordanian experience has inspired us to quickly spread this development approach in our countries and places of work."

Noor Al Hussein Foundation initiated the Quality of Life Project in cooperation with WHO and the ministry of health in 1989 with the aim of introducing a comprehensive approach to development, based on popular participation, and self-reliance to improve the social, health and economic quality of life in the needy societies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Spain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to King Juan Carlos of Spain, congratulating him on his country's national day and wishing him continued good health and happiness and the Spanish people further progress and prosperity.

New envoys appointed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday designated Naeef Saud Al Qadi as Jordan's ambassador to Egypt. Mr. Al Qadi succeeds Nabil Al Nimir. Prior to his recent appointment, Mr. Al Qadi was Jordan's ambassador to Qatar. Also Tuesday a Royal Decree was issued endorsing the Cabinet's decision to appoint Samir Issa Al Naouri as Jordan's ambassador to China.

Tourism minister meets with Chilean delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Yaman Hikmat Tuesday received the Chilean ambassador to Jordan, who was accompanied by a Chilean travel agents delegation currently on a visit to Jordan. The delegation is headed by President of the Chilean Association of Tourism Enterprises Onofre Urrutia. Mr. Hikmat briefed the delegation on tourism in Jordan and the future plans to develop the industry. He also reviewed with them scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Chile.

Canadian academics visit university

AMMAN (Petra) — A two-person delegation from Ottawa University in Canada Tuesday visited the University of Jordan where they met with University President, Fawzi Gharibeh vice presidents and deans of faculties to discuss scopes of

cooperation in scientific and academic fields. Talks focused on cooperation in the areas of water resources and environment, including the prospects of developing joint programmes with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The Canadian delegation includes Dean of Ottawa University's Science Faculty Hugh French and Deo of the Engineering Faculty Gilce Parry.

ATF to hold symposium

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) will hold a symposium on "Ethics in Economy: Euro-Arab Perspectives" in Amman on Oct. 23 and 24, according to an announcement here Tuesday. Attending will be a group of Arab and German intellectuals who will review working papers focusing on economics. The two-day meeting, which will be chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, will discuss papers tackling the Christian image of man and its guidelines for the economic order in the industrialised countries; Muslim ethics in a modern economic system; religious and cultural values in a liberal developing country, and the social market economy. During the symposium there will be a panel discussion on "One Model of Economic Order or Several Models, Thinkable and Realisable?" The symposium, to be held at the Amman Forte Grand Hotel, is being organised in cooperation with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Foundation of Germany.

Amman-Damascus train service starts new timetable

AMMAN (Petra) — Passenger trains operating between Amman and Damascus will be departing Amman Mondays at 8:00 a.m. and departing Damascus Sundays at 7:30 a.m., according to sources at the Hijaz Railway Corporation. The new arrangement will take effect Oct. 16.

Truck weight reductions to start in 4 stages

AMMAN (Petra) — In implementation of a recent Cabinet decision regarding the axial weight of trucks on the Kingdom's roads, such weights are to be reduced by 25 per cent and the reduction would take place in stages, to be completed by February 1995, according to Qasem Saoub, acting president of the Union of Truck Owners Tuesday.

Mr. Saoub said the government issued a set of regulations concerning axial weights on roads in 1983, but the Economic Security Committee took a decision in 1991 to allow the trucks to increase their loads by 25 per cent.

The committee had taken the decision at the time in order to speed up the transportation of goods passing to Iraq via the port of Aqaba, said Mr. Saoub, who added that the decision was clearly detrimental to roads which sustained immense damage because of the heavier loads.

Starting today (Wednesday) all trucks are to reduce their weights in four stages, said Mr. Saoub.

The reduction should help keep the roads, as well as the trucks, in better condition, he added.

Mr. Saoub said that despite the gradual reduction of truck weights, the trucks are unsafe on some roads, especially the Ring Road in Aqaba.

According to Mr. Saoub, truck drivers have been complaining that the road there lacks safety measures and is unsafe because it was constructed on a bed of sand and earth which caves in under the weight of some heavier trucks.

Mr. Saoub called on the Ministry of Transport to bring the four-stage reduction of axial weights down to two stages, and re-examine the Ring Road design in Aqaba and assign special parking zones for the trucks on that road.

Jordan Radio launches campaign to help the hearing impaired

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The English service of Radio Jordan, in cooperation with the specialized Audiometry Center (SAC) began an Ear Care and Hearing Orientation (ECHO) campaign this week aimed at informing the public about speech and hearing problems of children and what can be done about them.

The campaign, aired daily at 9:30 a.m. for 10 minutes, provides information on audiology services available in the Kingdom. "The radio campaign is not necessarily for the deaf or people with hearing impairments as much as it is an experiment to see how effective such a campaign is at reaching our target," said Manal Hamzeh, founder and director of SAC.

"We have a wide spectrum of professional services in Jordan that can help many people and we want to let them know about them," said Ms. Hamzeh a certified audiologist.

Children under 15 represent 55 per cent of the population, according to Ms. Hamzeh, and the campaign attempts to reach at least 30 per cent of the children who might need audiology services maybe once in their lives, or maybe for the rest of their lives; but less than one per cent are identified with hearing and speech problems.

The first six years of a child's life are the most sensitive stages and should be under surveillance, because some children are born with a higher risk of developing hearing problems and other pre-school age often suffer middle ear infections," said Ms. Hamzeh.

She also stressed that Malhas thanking each of them for their patronage and support.

In their message to the Queen, the participants commended Her Majesty's dedicated leadership for the welfare of the Jordanian people.

They added: "Your personal involvement in JHF's Quality of Life Project has given it light, direction and success and has illuminated the path for many of us to follow suit. What we have learned from the commendable Jordanian experience has inspired us to quickly spread this development approach in our countries and places of work."

Noor Al Hussein Foundation initiated the Quality of Life Project in cooperation with WHO and the ministry of health in 1989 with the aim of introducing a comprehensive approach to development, based on popular participation, and self-reliance to improve the social, health and economic quality of life in the needy societies.

teachers, especially kindergarten to seventh grade teachers, can help in discovering hearing problems in children at an early stage. These teachers, she said, are a major target of the radio campaign.

If half of the teachers become aware of the signs of hearing problems in children and are able to spot them in the early stages they can refer the children to the appropriate agencies for therapy and thus help in preventing learning disabilities the child may develop because of hearing problems," said Ms. Hamzeh.

Ms. Hamzeh said the campaign also aims to target adults, especially factory workers who are exposed to high levels of noise that can cause hearing problems, as well as the elderly. "We have a significant population of senior citizens, and they deserve a good quality life during their last years. We should furnish them with services and hearing aids so they can be integrated into their families and in their social life so that they are not necessarily isolated because of hearing loss," said Ms. Hamzeh.

Listeners of the programme are encouraged to call into the radio station with any questions regarding hearing problems, she said. "Once I hear a person is in need, I will refer him/her to one of the three audiology centres to seek help," said Ms. Hamzeh.

These centres are the Ministry of Health National Speech and Hearing Centre, the Hussein Medical Centre and the Specialised Audiology Centre.

At the end of the month-long campaign, an evaluation will be conducted to determine the number of people

who qualify as a foster family a couple must be Muslim, have no children of their own, be financially capable to care for the child and live in a home with acceptable health and safety standards, Mrs. Najdawi said.

The department inspects the prospective foster home to determine the eligibility of the foster couple and if the home will provide a true family-like environment for the child.

Family department monitors nurseries, screens prospective foster couples

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Social Development which took part in Arab Child Week activities that ended Monday said its Family and Childhood Department was maintaining its child care programme through guidance, supervision and monitoring of more than 552 private and public nurseries around the Kingdom.

Also five centres in the north, centre and south of the country care for orphaned and

homeless children, said department director Nisreen Najdawi.

The department provides guidance for the nurseries, organises regular training courses for nursery teachers and follows up on the progress of each nursery, according to Mrs. Najdawi.

Apart from the five centres located in Irbid, Amman and Ma'an, said Mrs. Najdawi, the department arranges for foster parents to care for the children.

GOING IT SOLO: Dunia Al Alami (14) performs at the keyboard Monday night. Miss Alami was one of nine young musicians chosen to perform at the Royal Cultural Centre in a programme entitled "Amman Soloists." The performance was presented by the Amman

Player's Orchestra in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture as part of a seven-day schedule of events to celebrate International Music Day. Other solos Monday included performances on the oboe and classical guitar.

PCC votes for 'national authority'

(Continued from page 1)
side and outside the occupied territories."

Mr. Arafat said: "But this authority will report to the Executive Committee, and we will leave the details of appointments for this authority to be decided later by the Executive Committee."

PCC members said Mr. Arafat succeeded in winning legitimacy for a "permanent national authority" despite Arafat's insistence on assuring them that elections will take place after nine months as stated in the accord."

Fatah members said there was a "gentleman's agreement" among Fatah Central Committee members to oppose the accord from within the PLO. The recent meetings

of Fatah Central Committee and the PCC signalled a restructuring of Fatah whereby some Fatah leaders would play new and different roles in the future. An obvious example was Mohammad Ghuneim, head of organisation and recruiting in Fatah, who has been an ardent opponent of the peace process launched in Madrid, but now a supporter of the accord.

Some Fatah leaders said they expect Mr. Ghuneim to emerge as the second man in Fatah, a role which Mr. Kadoudi played after the assassinations of the two top Fatah leaders, Khalil Al Wazir and Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad).

Salim Al Za'oun, acting Speaker of the PNC, who presided the PCC-meetings said in the near future, changes will affect the PCC, the Executive Committee and the PNC so that Palestinians residing in the occupied territories would act as full members.

Mr. Za'oun told around 100 Palestinians from the occupied territories attended the PCC as observers that they would be able to vote when they become full members in the future when the PLO enlarges its institutions to accommodate them.

A PLO official said the PLO was "being restructured to accommodate residents of the occupied territories since the weight of the political decisions would also move to the headquarters of the Palestinian National Authority."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "Return to Nature" by Iraqi artists Abdul Hussein Abdul Waked and Zeinab Abdul Waked at the Fine Arts Section at the University of Yarmouk — Irbid.
- ★ Photo exhibition displaying pictures from Jordan and Syria by German artist J. Swakowski at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ Photographic exhibition by artist Ahmad Al Smaidi at the Yarmouk University Student Affairs Deanship — Irbid.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mrs. Lucy Marto, Janine Saad, and Tete Wegener at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Photo exhibition entitled "Desert Rituals" by Egyptian artist Moustafa Za'at at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Talib at the Balka'a Art Gallery in Al Fuheis.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Dr. Ala Bashir and Sa'di Abbas at the Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mahmoud Al-Ubedi at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Ali Al Mu'mar at the Orfali Art

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Gregory's Girl" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m. (90 min.).

SPORTS ROUND-UP PROGRAMME

- ★ One-hour programme featuring a condensation of the most popular football games of the week with play-by-play announcement at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

DRAMAS

- ★ Children's drama entitled "Aladdin's Lamp" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

BOOK EXHIBITION

- ★ Comprehensive book and educational aids exhibition at the International Exhibition Hall - University Road.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

- ★ The Armed Forces Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

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Deciding the future

THE PEACE agreement signed Sept. 13 between the PLO and Israel and Jordanian-Palestinian relations and future ties are expected to dominate the campaign for parliamentary elections that start next week. And thus should be the case in a democratic country like Jordan. For these two issues are going to determine the future of the country. That is why His Majesty King Hussein chose to address the nation last night to bless debate but warn against abusing national unity and Arab leaders. Debate of the merits of peace, or its demerits, and of Palestinian-Jordanian dialogue aimed at a better and healthier relationship is necessary for the future well-being of Jordan. As the King has noted, the Arab peoples have been shown having emotions and sentiments that shift from one extreme to the other within short spans of time because of the lack of appropriate knowledge of the facts or proper assessment of the circumstances.

This sort of shift of sentiment has been seen in abundance lately. We have been reading columns and articles in the newspapers which, while giving scant attention to facts are full of accusations and name-calling. We have been flooded by statements that are full of emotions but little rationale.

Democracy and freedom of speech are not and should not be pretexts for abusing other individuals or peoples or levelling accusations at others. Accusing one another of treason and cowardice is not conducive to rational reactions and an atmosphere of national unity. One should not stubbornly try to impose his/her point of view, but should consider the point of view and interest of the "other" as well. One should always place the interest of the nation and people above his/her own, family or clan. That is why we full-heartedly welcome His Majesty the King's call for dialogue and debate that should cement the bonds among people not weaken them. For we, Jordanians and Palestinians, no matter where we originally come from, need unity most at this very crucial moment in our history.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL ASWAQ, a new Arabic daily on the news stand, Tuesday discussed the coming elections, cautioning the public to place the higher national interests above all other considerations. Thursday is the date assigned for the start of the election campaigns, when the candidates register their names at the governors' offices in various districts and Thursday will begin the fever accompanying the race for Parliament, said the daily. The paper expressed hope that the candidates will steer away from irresponsible statements and refrain from committing themselves to unrealistic programmes, which they can by no means implement. At the same time, it said, the electorate should close their door before any rumours or false reports that aim at sowing seeds of discord and throw suspicions. The Jordanians, added the daily, should realise that as the country and the whole region are going through very crucial stage, and facing decisions of paramount importance, everything possible should be done in order to enhance national unity and ensure free and fair elections that can bring to Parliament only those who can truly represent the masses and work towards fulfilling their aspirations. The paper expressed hope that the coming campaign would display the Jordanian people's desire to pursue the course of democracy at all levels and help achieve the aspired national goals.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Tuesday urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to fight for the release of all the Palestinian detainees still in Israeli jails. Mohammad Kawash said that one of the most pressing concerns of the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is the fate of the freedom fighters who have spent years in jail and are awaiting freedom now that the PLO and Israel have re-achieved agreement on the self-rule government. The Israelis are stalling and dragging their feet about this question and are trying to use the Palestinian detainees to blackmail their conditions, said the writer.

Following is an official translation of His Majesty King Hussein's address:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Blessings and peace be on the faithful Arab Hashemite Prophet

Fellow citizens,
Fellow Jordanians, whatever your origins,

Peace be with you and God's mercy and His blessing,

I send an Arab, Islamic, Hashemite greeting to you, who all reside in the depth of my conscience, young and old; men, women and children, lifelong friends and compatriots. You are the promise of the great future for whose good I have striven and whose glory I have diligently sought. In the grace of God's bounty to us all, I hold for you not only great love but also great pride in being part of you and in the mutual confidence that exists, with God's grace, between me and you — all of you, and myself along with you, whoever holds their hands high, not bowing save to God Almighty. I also send a special greeting to the members of the Arab Legion and the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces, comrades-in-arms, our country's shield, sword and protector, so well-deserving of our nation's confidence and pride, so loyal to its internal security and stability, so steadfast in rising up to challenges posed by successive crises and at various times. Those are our sons, who stand for all that is most radiant in the calling of a true soldier as well as in the proper training of Arab men-at-arms, who represent the ideal of military honour, who act as ambassadors for our nation and for Jordan through serving in international peace-keeping forces in several places, who are the pride of their commander-in-chief and members of the Prophet's Arab Legion.

Fellow Citizens,
Beloved Jordanians, whatever your origins,

To all those who expressed an opinion on the subject of our national elections, whether advocating that they be held at their appointed time or that they be postponed, I convey my thanks and appreciation. For I am confident that their opinions have stemmed from motives of watchfulness over the higher interests of Jordan and have grown out of modes of analysis all leading to bolstering the country's progress and renaissance and rooted in democratic dialogue and freedom of opinion.

As for me, I acted on God's injunction: "And consult them in affairs (of moment). Then, when thou hast taken a decision, put thy trust in Allah".

It is not secret that the picture I see from my vantage point is a necessity larger and more comprehensive than that available to the public in terms of totality of view. For forty years, my concern as a Hashemite entrusted with responsibility towards you have been focused on serving you with honesty and loyalty, free from any ulterior motive. This concern has been the *raison d'être* of my existence and the source of my strength and perseverance in shoudering its burdens and difficulties.

The decision taken was based on the following principal considerations:

First: We are committed to democracy as a way of life, that is, to participation in decision-making on a basis of knowledge and shared responsibility. This commitment, with the Election Law, based on the letter and spirit of the Constitution, which provides equality for all and reflects the highest form of legislation for freedoms, rights and obligations. The parliamentary elections will be held on their appointed and previously announced date, with no change at all. The great events and serious developments which have happened of late have made it imperative for me at this time to engage with you, as is our want, in a shared discussion and debate on whether to have held the elections on their date or to have postponed them to a later, but proximate, time. This is in the nature of democracy, or Shura (call it what you will), because in its true manifestation it goes beyond the question of holding elections on time or postponing them on account of unforeseen or insurmountable circumstances. For democracy is a continuing fact of life with us, and with God's help, it shall not be interrupted. It is a cause we have chosen for ourselves in sharing the responsibility of decision-making and implementation in a climate of adherence to the letter and the spirit of the Constitution as well as to the National Charter, which you all participated in formulating, through a Royal Commission we set up for the purpose of ensuring a greater measure of cooperation and integration rooted in will, awareness and honour. It was also rooted in democracy as well as in the launch of political pluralism which is Jordanian in origin and character, which belongs to a single, authentic, serious, responsible and goal-oriented process and which is committed to the respect of the rights of the individual and, at the same time, to respect by the individual for the right of others and the laws of his country. It aimed at enhancing the spirit of dialogue, respecting the opinion of others and being open to knowledge and learning rather than being self-enclosed — without foregoing any of our values or principles and with-

out locking ourselves up in a confined cell whose thick curtains serve only to close the avenues of hope and keep out the rays of the sun. Also, without any claim to uniqueness of vision or a proprietary bold on truth and with no shattering of our ears, eyes and hearts against the pulsing world and life around us; no severance of ties with the rest of the world or with God's other creatures; without ignoring the efforts going on space to establish a new world order but understanding the circumstances of its growth as well as interacting with it and enriching it through working from within as a service to ourselves and our nation, so that it does not become a reality whilst we have no say or influence on its content and its possible effect on us. We must shun any continuance of vilification of others, because that would diminish the democratic process, give free rein to ignorance and take us back to a new Jahliliyya though in modern clothing. Perhaps what we should resist most of all is the tendency to make quick, emotional — and superficial judgement on others — from a position different from theirs and without any responsible or realistic examination of their actions or decisions taken in the course of fulfilling their duties.

Dear Brethren,

to the aid of Palestine. On the soil of Palestine, our blood has been shed and has mingled with theirs during our long and common march. We have shared our sustenance together. With determination and will, with tears of pride and the sweat of manhood, we have built together and have lived our lives together, in good times and bad. It is in this great spirit of brotherhood that the people will exercise, with God's blessing, their role in choosing their new House of Representatives — as one family that will stand forth the best among them, the most rational and enlightened cream of the cream, to serve the coming House, through exercising its right to vote at the appointed time. So proceed to fulfil this obligation in an atmosphere of brotherliness, freedom and absolute integrity — without prejudice to the right of those of us of Palestinian origin to choose what they please when the choice of return or compensation or both becomes available to them. Proceed together with God's blessing. On him we depend and on Him is my trust, the best to protect and the best to trust.

As for developments of the recent past in the peace process, the mutual Palestinian-Israeli recognition, the conclusion of the accord on principles, and the start of the period of serious implementation, I repeat my plea to all our Palestinian brethren, within the occupied Palestinian territories and in the outside world, to unite and cooperate and hold fast together, lest the wind go out of their sails, and to work through the leadership which they have chosen as their sole, legitimate representative. As for us Arabs, we all made a commitment at the Rabat Summit of 1974 to recognise it and them and its singleness of representation — in response to their own desire. We committed ourselves to supporting that leadership and whose continuance we should encourage until its objectives are realised in successive phases. It is reasonable or logical, in the light of Palestinian, Arab and international realities, and in the light of recognising such realities which impose on us all the imperatives of continued action, to deal with all aspects of this most complex of international conflicts, to imagine that all goals can be achieved and all aspects of the conflict be resolved in one fell swoop and in a single moment? Does any of us have the right to close all doors in a spirit of negativism which has, unfortunately, become all too common, manifested in anger, suspicion and pessimism and with the objective of extinguishing the hope of Palestinians — women, old people and children — as well as of Arabs and Israelis right on their national soil and the leadership they chose as a legitimate representative. Palestine then took up its seat in several international organisations and in international conferences on an equal footing with its Arab sister states. Also, the Palestinian cause has been the core and essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the beginning. As for the present, at this critical juncture in terms of the facts on the ground, its implications and expected results, since the Palestinian leadership representing its people has chosen the path of direct dialogue with Israel to deal with the Palestinian cause in all its aspects aiming at the restoration of Palestinian rights on Palestinian national soil in delineated phases based on Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, we approve of their decision and do not diminish today our commitment of yesterday to support it and the Palestinians and their rights which are not amenable to any disposition but by themselves.

Our fathers and grandfathers have supported them since the Great Arab Revolt and the blood of the Hashemites. Jordanians and Palestinians have mingled across all the stages of their struggle when rights were being defended and duty fulfilled on Palestine's sacred soil. With regard to the past, let me only reap its lessons as we remember missed opportunities and superficial policies governed by emotions and lack of rationality. History objectively and sincerely written will have its say for future generations, and the Arabs and Palestinians will bear their share of responsibility together. For this moment, however, and indeed along the whole range of the struggle, no one, in our view, has the right to denigrate the sacrifices and suffering of the Palestinian and Arab Nation or the sanctity of their soil — Palestinian and Arab alike.

It is an honour for us here in Jordan, their closest brethren of all, to have lived with them and as part of them and to have endured alongside them oppression, harm and aggression. At all times, we have been in the forefront of the struggle, giving out all to defend right, dignity, justice and peace.

Dear Brethren,

West Bank or to represent the Palestinians.

Then there occurred the war of 1973, which we knew about only when it started. We immediately began to mobilise and make preparations to prevent any encroachment on our territory and to defend it in the event of attack. As the military operation evolved, units of the Arab Legion moved to the Syrian-Israeli front as a matter of duty and participation in the honour of defending the Arab lands or the sister state of Syria, alongside our brethren there. In the aftermath of the war, Security Council Resolution 338 was adopted, requiring negotiations under international auspices, to implement Resolution 242 and achieve comprehensive peace. We went to the Geneva conference, which was soon adjourned.

In the meantime, we demanded a disengagement of forces with the Israelis on the Jordanian front as a first step, similar to what had occurred on the Egyptian-Israeli and Syrian-Israeli front, from the farthest point in the northern Jordan Valley to the north of the Dead Sea, to a depth of ten kilometres. But this was turned down. Then the Arab Summit of Rabat was held in 1974.

After extensive discussions, we responded to the wish of our Palestinian brethren and the entire Arab Nation to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. We committed ourselves to supporting it and to cooperating with it out of a desire to serve the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people in occupied Palestine. We regarded this position as one of rational honour to be fulfilled with our utmost capabilities until the occupation had been removed.

On the other hand, the course of Israeli politics underwent a radical shift immediately following the Rabat summit. It began to tell the world that it recognised no other party but Jordan and would not deal with any other party as far as the future and fate of the occupied West Bank were concerned.

On our part, we had honoured our direct political responsibilities — until the Rabat summit — towards the occupied West Bank. We were committed to seeking its rescue and liberation to enable it to determine its own future. Then we adhered to the Rabat resolution with tenacity, sincerity and honour. This was done through the attempt, more than once, at Jordanian-Palestinian coordination and agreement; the decision to disengage legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, on the basis that it was an internal Jordanian-Palestinian affair not amenable to being relegated to any other party; through providing the umbrella to our Palestinian brethren at the Madrid, Moscow and Washington conferences, enabling them to exercise their right to represent themselves; and up to the mutual Palestinian-Israeli recognition in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993 and the start of the Palestinian-Israeli march towards peace to which we wish success, with God's help, in achieving its objectives.

Looking back at the past we have attempted with all we can, since the adoption of Security Council Resolution 242 in November 1967, to achieve progress towards the comprehensive implementation of that resolution. Then, in 1972, we announced that we were striving to remove the occupation from all the occupied lands in the West Bank, not to regain it for ourselves, but to place it under international control to enable the Palestinians in absolute freedom to decide on one of three options, one of which we had excluded right from the beginning, which was a return to the original union. This was in recognition of the fact of Palestinian adherence to the Palestinian identity and of Jordanian adherence to the Jordanian identity, despite the close ties between members of our one family. Only two options remained: A federal state or an independent Palestinian state — chosen in absolute freedom. This was also in response to the position of the Israeli leadership, which had refused to acknowledge any sovereign right by Jordan over the occupied West Bank and which had regarded the union between the two banks — held in trust until the resolution of the Palestinian issue in all its aspects — as Jordanian occupation terminated in 1967. Unfortunately, this position coincided with an acceptance by many of our Palestinian and Arab brethren of this interpretation.

In addition to the above, we on our part called for the need for all Palestinians to come together under one Palestinian umbrella in the West Bank and Gaza once the occupation had come to an end. In other words, Israel had refused to recognise Jordan's right to strive to rescue the

meeting in Washington, because we had refused to sign it before we saw clear and tangible progress on the Palestinian-Israeli level. We signed the agenda as an expression of our support for the mutual recognition between the Palestinians and the Israelis, for their ratification of their agreement in the document on the Declaration of Principles and the start of implementation of their peace plan. We shall actively proceed now with all that is necessary, first to lend support to our Palestinian brethren and cooperate with them on a carefully studied, planned and clear basis, both to protect them and us, and second, to deal firmly and resolutely with the many special and urgent issues which we face, with speed, care and precision. Alongside hope and action to achieve the comprehensive peace for which we have called for so long, we shall focus our attention on the individual and on his right to a secure, stable and promising life. Equally, we shall concentrate on a peace that would give future generations access to generous prospects of which our own generations have been deprived. This would be in defence of right and life.

Turning to Jerusalem, we hope that it would be transformed into a meeting point and a symbol of Palestinian-Israeli peace, of peace among the children of Abraham (on whom be peace). As for the Holy Places in the city for the adherents of the three monotheistic religions, which were ordained by God's will to be ardently beloved by them all, we shall herald the only course we can possibly accept. We Hashemites have borne a special historic honour through our distinctive connection with Jerusalem. For it is the site where Allah took his Prophet for a journey by night. And the resting place of Hussein I. The soil of Al Aqsa Mosque has been moistened by the blood of my martyred grandfather, founder of the Kingdom, Abdallah Ibn Al Hussein. And the soldiers of the Prophet's Arab Legion have fought to defend it, and welcomed martyrdom in that pursuit.

Our men-at-arm fought in the defence of Jerusalem in the war of 1967, which was imposed on us under unified Arab command in fulfilment of our commitment to the principles of the Arab League and the charter of joint Arab defence. We knew in advance that the results of the war could not be any better than what eventually transpired, because the Arab-Israeli balance of power, according to studies by Arab military personnel, was in Israel's favour. Arab-Israeli parity had been a dream and an objective which our nation did not pursue as it had resolved at the Cairo summit, when a unified command was established. The command's capabilities were soon curtailed and it was denied the material means it had originally sought in order to achieve parity with a target of eighteen months after the war was imposed in June 1967. Those of our soldiers who stayed alive and could carry arms continued to fight at the walls and gates of Jerusalem. They had refused to stop until after the then governor of Jerusalem (God rest his soul) and its leading citizens got in touch with me, requesting that I order the heroic commander and his troops to halt the fighting in the interest of protecting Jerusalem and its Holy Places. This was so because the larger battle had already been decided. The governor and the citizens of Jerusalem with him expressed their profound thanks and appreciation for the hardy soldiers and their legendary valour in the defence of the city. Not many months of continued skirmishes had passed, when the battle of Karameh, which you all know, was imposed on us, during which our men showed exceptional courage, preferring death to defeat, and were rewarded by the Almighty with victory.

As for us, our position and policies were as clear as the sun. Whilst many thought it inevitable, we did not fall to our knees, nor did we bow our head except to God. Our position was clear, brave, constructive, responsible, open and based on principle — for which we are well-known to the Arabs, to the states and leaders of the world, to Israel and its successive leaders, and directly experienced by all through every possible means. We give praise to God that we showed no cowardice where honour and manliness were concerned. We left no stone unturned in defence and support of the right of the Palestinians to their national soil. They had refused to stop until after the then governor of Jerusalem (God rest his soul) and its leading citizens got in touch with me, requesting that I order the heroic commander and his troops to halt the fighting in the interest of protecting Jerusalem and its Holy Places. This was so because the larger battle had already been decided. The governor and the citizens of Jerusalem with him expressed their profound thanks and appreciation for the hardy soldiers and their legendary valour in the defence of the city. Not many months of continued skirmishes had passed, when the battle of Karameh, which you all know, was imposed on us, during which our men showed exceptional courage, preferring death to defeat, and were rewarded by the Almighty with victory.

Such, then, has been the connection of the Hashemites with Jerusalem. It is a historic and religious bond, a commitment by the sons of Hashem, house of the Prophet of God (May God's blessings be upon him) to Jerusalem — supported by religion, bolstered by martyrdom and recorded by history. We shall remain faithful to Jerusalem; we shall defend the right of the nation to Jerusalem; we shall remain committed to its Holy

(Continued on page 5)

National unity should be above any other consideration when Jordanians go to polls

Wisdom should guide Jordanians' choices of Parliament representatives

(Continued from page 4)

Places. The Hashemites, their children and their grandchildren on this side of the Jordan River shall remain in the forefront of their Jordanian family, regardless of their origin, loyal to this covenant until the end of time.

With regard to the Islamic Holy Places of Jerusalem in particular, our position remains unchanged. We continue to look after them and we are committed to their restoration and to the Jerusalem Waqf. We did not, nor will we ever, recognise any sovereignty over them except by Almighty God, as indeed with the Holy Places of all believers in God in this most Holy City, this small but hallowed place which God has willed for great glory sought by the hearts of all believers, who hope that their rights and freedoms be respected, and that they could exercise the worship of God within it, motivated only by the fear of God and the desire for his favour.

This Hashemite leadership hopes for its call to be heard—that the trust remain as a badge of honour and that it be given real support to that end. It cannot relinquish this trust under any circumstances. It has the honour to invite the Arab and Muslim Nation to establish a venerable, non-political religious body, representing the five Islamic sects, to look after the affairs of the Muslim Holy Places. We shall be honoured to give such a body our total and unstinting support—in the cause of establishing the unity of our nation—to be the best "so as to be the best of peoples, evolved for mankind."

We call herein for an Arab-Muslim dialogue, for God has honoured the Arabs with carrying the message of faith and his Holy Book revealed to the faithful Arab Prophet (God's blessings and peace be upon him) and promulgated to the world in a correct Arab tongue. At the same time, we call for a responsible and constructive Muslim dialogue with our Christian brethren, aimed at unifying their ranks as well, in the spirit of the relationship

between Muslims and Christians prevailing since the Prophet's Caliph Omar Ibn Al Khattab entered Jerusalem. This would then be followed by a comprehensive dialogue among the adherents of the three monotheistic religions. Should a formula emerge that would preserve rights and protect the Holy Places, we would then look into it. At the same time, we shall reserve the right to support any formula convincing to us, provided it be acceptable to the nation. Let Jerusalem then be a symbol for peace, a diadem of faith and a place of prayer for believers in God all over the world.

Fellow citizens,

Standing as I do by a just and comprehensive peace in this region and in the entire world, I would hope that we can all adopt the same position, since we have chosen to traverse this path together to the largest national congress we have ever held. The formula was presented to that congress, which moved to support our participation in the peace process. As I have always known you, you are people of honour and magnanimity, whose heads are not bowed except to Almighty God. If, with God's help, the hope becomes a reality, the conditions under which the region and its peoples and all of us have lived, beset so far by anxiety with regard to all future prospects for the length of our entire lives—these conditions will change. We therefore beseech the Almighty that he enable us all to see the dawn of peace, and to have made a considerable contribution to its achievement as well as to the dissemination of its benefits to all believers in God. Indeed, it will be the most precious gift we can bequeath—in case of success—to the coming generations which dream of a decent life where all capabilities would be directed towards constructive work under conditions of stability—for which we have yearned for a long time. This blessed region could well become the springboard for a new hope and positive radiance which our nation will

will. Should this come to pass, the clouds of darkness and the murkiness of suspicion and fantasy will be lifted. In their plan, the elements of confidence will be installed on a firm and lasting footing. In this context, we would point to the copious debate on the possible forms of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations, starting with the united Arab kingdom project which we suggested in 1972 and moving up to the confederal union. It is certain that under all circumstances, Jordanian-Palestinian relations will remain strong and distinctive, reflecting the bond of our common brotherhood, struggle, suffering and hopes. Let the debate, then, be linked to the people's will to begin with. Let us then look at the entity which our Palestinian brethren could achieve on their national soil in the wake of the recent agreement, and through our cooperation with them and support for them at all levels. We would then examine what could transpire among the people as more basic rights in life, more freedoms, responsibility exercised, more participation in the administration of their affairs and more respect for pluralism in society become available to our brethren. At that point, we could launch any form of unitary project—with a free will that would ensure its viability—which could be the beginning of a new and comprehensive pan-Arab project.

Fellow citizens,

I find it imperative to revert to our internal affairs. With my usual frankness and clarity, I would say to you that the question of our democratic march is important to us all. We are growing more attached to it as time goes by and more insistent in seeing it through. So, be your own allies and mine. Do not let me or yourselves down, thus risking a loss of a model, which we would like the Arab Nation to regard as a good example to follow.

I stand by you, just as I stand by all that is right, and by responsibility and life itself. Move forward. I am with you. Next to God, seek resort in precision of choice and integrity of selection. Send the cream

of the cream to represent you in the new House of Representatives. Choose those who have the fear of God in their hearts in what concerns their homeland and their nation. Select people who have an open and thoughtful mind, who have a sincere and transparent heart, who have a strong will and a live conscience, who are committed to being one family bent on a single course and a single goal.

In this compassionate democratic climate which Jordan is enjoying, I urge the few among those who climb the pulpit of the Prophet (blessings and peace be upon Him), those in positions of responsibility, who have, in the past, tended to pronounce on matters with which they have no right to deal and should not pronounce on, whatever scholarship they claim, to fear God in what they say, because any engagement by those who do not understand the sanctity of the pulpit or recognise the trust of responsibility in matters that do not concern them and which they have no knowledge is a departure from obedience to the commands of Almighty God.

"Invite (all) to the way of thy Lord with wisdom and beautiful preaching; and argue with them in ways that are best and most gracious; for thy Lord knoweth best, who have strayed from His path, and who receive guidance." It is part of the mercy of Allah that thou dost deal gently with them. Wert thou severe or harsh-hearted, they would have broken away from about thee."

I would also like to extend my good advice to them that what has happened so far is enough. Let us leave politics outside the houses of worship. We are growing more attached to it as time goes by and more insistent in seeing it through. So, be your own allies and mine. Do not let me or yourselves down, thus risking a loss of a model, which we would like the Arab Nation to regard as a good example to follow.

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house and lineage, who are above all worldly considerations and are not incapable, together with the faithful among God's creatures, of putting an end to what is wrong and sinful should any person from now on, which we hope will not happen, I am here making specific references and not generalisations. In fact, I thank and bave pride in every scholar who enriches Jordan with his scholarships and piety.

My fellow and free Jordanians,

As for our army, our military justice system and our security organisations watchful over our country's security and represented by the General Intelligence and Public Security Departments, we shall not act leniently towards anybody at all with regard to the recent rumour mongering and vilification to which they have been subjected. For we have built them up on a foundation of piety, scientific aptitude and knowledge, as well as of honour, dignity and high morality. Without them, Jordan would not have enjoyed its current well-being. Nor would there have been a democracy and freedom allowing some—so far—to denigrate them or otherwise encroach upon them. All of this must, and with God's grace, will stop immediately, within the purview of our laws, which should be respected.

Members of these security organisations and of the Arab Legion and the Jordanian Armed Forces are more noble, more proud and more dignified than to be belittled by those who are ignorant or prejudiced of any description. Al Hussein's concern for his sons in these organisations and for their proper national upbringing and performance is above the malice of those hypocrites and vengeful individuals who like to fish in muddy waters. If in the past we have pardoned those who went astray or engaged in plotting to harm our progress, let no one believe that we did not out of mere concern for ourselves and for the organisations of the state with regard to those who show the loudest. In the larger issues, for example, we knew beyond any doubt of conspiracies by the accused and their involvement up to their ears. But we forgave them in order

to give them an opportunity to repent and rejoin the ranks of law-abiding and responsible citizens. We know this, and they know it. Let them not pass over our kindness in providing a second chance. Let some not exceed their limits or always bank on our forgiveness, where every act of clemency on our part has been construed by the sick of mind as a victory and encouragement to even greater bias, licence and abuse.

Let us, then, move forward towards the clarity of vision we have planned for the current stage, namely national concern, democracy, a sense of belonging to the Arab Nation and a Hashemite spirit. Let justice, righteousness, goodness and amity be the pillars of this one family. Let us join the battle of civilisation in this day and age through scholarship and awareness. Let us face the challenges of this current phase, as our fathers did before us, with patience, steadfastness on our land, and a spirit of discipline and truthfulness. Let us not shrink from claiming our rights, not bend in the face of an impending storm, not abandon the unity of our nation or the blood of our martyrs or the sanctity of our message—all this as we look to a new Arab dawning, whose sun will bestow freedom, democracy and the respect of human rights. The rising of the sun from the land of Jordan will be an honour for us all, as it did one morning at Mutah and Yarmouk and as the battalions of the Great Arab Revolt emerged from Mecca and spread the promise of the dawn through the sound of horses and the clash of swords, until Faisal Ibn Al Hussein and his forces boisted its banner over Damascus and Baghdad and Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein planted its flag in the soil of Jerusalem and Amman.

May God keep you and watch over you. He is the guardian of our march and to Him all success is referred.

Peace be with you and God's mercy and his blessings.

U.S. economic help seen as crucial for Palestinians

By Farida Burris

NEW YORK — The historic political accord between the Palestinians and Israel calls for prompt economic assistance to build the shattered economy of Gaza and the West Bank, says Dr. Ibrahim Oweiss, chairman of the Arab-American Business and Professional Association in Washington, D.C. One of the most important first steps, he says, is for the U.S. government to extend the General System of Preference (GSP) status to Palestinian products.

Dr. Oweiss indicated that he had written to President Bill Clinton on behalf of the Arab-American Business and Professional Association and that the organisation would continue to press for a status of preference for Palestinian products. "This is extremely important for the economy of the region," he explained in a recent interview. "Other countries have been helped by the status of preference."

A professor of economics at Georgetown University in Washington, Dr. Oweiss said that "the active support of America" is necessary to help the private sector to advance the economy and create jobs in Gaza and the West Bank. The creation of business opportunities and jobs would improve living conditions in squalid camps where unemployment is about 60 per cent.

To change conditions caused by years of unrest in the occupied territories, the association initiated the establishment of a Palestinian-American Chamber of Commerce. It is also pursuing the establishment of a Palestinian-American Bank with officials in the J.S., Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

A Palestinian-American bank could be the "institution through which aid would be channelled and invested properly," says Dr. Oweiss. "Such a bank could establish other banks or companies, such as a Palestinian-American shipping company or a Palestinian-American Agriculture Bank. All such activities need to be enhanced," he stressed.

A Palestinian-American bank could have a role similar to the Bank Misr of Egypt funded by Talaat Harb Pasha,



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali discuss economic assistance to Palestinians from U.N. agencies (WNL photo)

Dr. Oweiss explained. He added that the Bank Misr "helped the economy of Egypt tremendously in the 1920s and 1930s. The early industrialisation of Egypt took place with the financing of the textile industry by the Bank Misr Group."

The Palestinian people are resourceful and well educated," Dr. Oweiss noted, but they need the "ability to finance business projects." Dr. Oweiss is from Egypt and currently resides in the U.S. He is the author of over 50 scholarly publications including "The Political Economy of Contemporary Egypt and The Israeli Economy: A War Economy."

"In spite of the problems of occupation in the West Bank and Gaza, the per capita income there is at least twice as much as that of Egypt," Dr. Oweiss said. "They have been exposed to the modern technology and the modern machinery of the Israelis, so they have the potential for bringing about changes." He said 90 per cent of the trade of the occupied territories has been with Israel.

In bringing about economic changes, Dr. Oweiss stressed that another very important factor is the need for country or territory-of-origin labelling, with appropriate wording for Palestinian products to meet U.S. regulations. "U.S. Customs does not allow products

to come into the U.S. without specific labeling of the country or territory of origin," he explained. Because there has been no uniformity in labeling so far, Palestinian products have had "a tough time marketed here."

Dr. Oweiss said the business successes of Japan, Taiwan and South Korea could serve as models for Gaza and the West Bank. As for the possibility of making the region a free trade zone, "as an economist, I would be very cautious in being overly optimistic."

Dr. Oweiss said 30 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP) in Gaza and the West Bank in 1991 came from agriculture. Industry represented only eight per cent. One promising sector is the potential for "agri-business" or industry based on agriculture and agricultural production, such as canning of foods and refrigeration.

At present, construction represents 12 per cent of trade. "This sector will improve significantly with peace prospects," Dr. Oweiss said. Gaza and the West Bank "need overhauling of the infrastructure, which means there will be a demand for several industries—such as the cement, brick and tar industries—for building roads and bridges."

Another expert on Arab-U.S. trade, Richard Holmes, president of the U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, said

the political agreement for Palestinian self-rule "will undoubtedly attract private and public capital into the region." In a recent interview he commented that "this watershed event in the modern history of the Middle East gives us the hope that business and economic structures will be created that will provide an environment of economic and political stability."

"The accord can be compared to the end of World War II, which led to the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community," Mr. Holmes explained. "That evolved into what is known as the European Economic Community today."

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The World Bank has proposed a \$4.3 billion economic development plan for Gaza and the West Bank, covering the next eight to 10 years. And the PLO has prepared an \$11.2 billion economic programme for the occupied territories for 1994-2000.

To strengthen the Middle East peace process, the European Economic Community has proposed doubling its assistance to Palestinians in occupied territories. It will seek approval from member states to provide an additional \$85 million in grants and loans over the next five years—World News Link.

Prince Hassan returns

(Continued from page 1)

as World Bank officials..

President Clinton expressed support for Jordan's efforts to address its economic problems and pledged to do what the U.S. could do to help the Kingdom, particularly its efforts to reduce its foreign debts.

The Crown Prince also attended a meeting of donors to support Middle East peace and presented Jordan's viewpoints vis-a-vis regional economic development and the problems that have essentially to be addressed in the context of peace in the region.

Prince Hassan also delivered Jordan's address to the current session of the United Nations General Assembly. The address was widely hailed as embodying the Arab position for a just, honourable, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East.

On his way home, the Crown Prince stopped over in Britain and held talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who voiced his country's support for the U.S. call for support of Jordan's economy.

At the Vatican, the Crown Prince met with Pope John Paul II and exchanged views with him on the Middle East peace process and issues related to Jerusalem.

PLO and Israel begin countdown

(Continued from page 1)

Cairo meeting will be led by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. First session Wednesday will last only one day and will end whenever necessary.

Military deputy Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak will lead the Israelis to the Taba Talks. First session will last at least two days.

An economic committee will be set up by the liaison committee to develop and implement economic cooperation.

A bilateral committee will be set up to agree structure and powers of autonomy council and election procedure. No date set for the talks to

the framework of the bilateral Middle East peace talks with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, but expected to take place at the end of October.

Under the Sept. 13 declaration of principles for autonomy Israel and the PLO are committed to work out by Dec. 13 an interim agreement covering withdrawal, transfer of power, the structure of the autonomy council and "comprehensive arrangements" for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Negotiations on the permanent status of the territories are to begin by the start of the third year of the five-year interim period.

Mubarak sworn in for third term as president

(Continued from page 10)

reduce aid you will be committing a mistake."

Mr. Mubarak said the United States failed to understand the political process in Egypt and the need for his harsh tactics. Egyptians had to be introduced gradually to democracy, he added.

"If you have a dam and keep the water until it begins to overflow it will drown many people. We have to give a gradual dose so people can swallow it and understand it."

Israel to allow 5,000 a year

(Continued from page 1)

tween us and the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, will be the question of refugees... but I believe the problem is not insurmountable," Mr. Beilin said before the session began.

"I think we can dedicate most of our discussions in the multilateral talks to some very concrete ideas in projects for the refugees themselves to better standard of living," he told journalists.

"I hope we will reaffirm the principles of (international) law on the Palestinian refugees and will take a number of clear and concrete measures regarding the situation of refugees camps in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria," Elias Sanbar, head of the Palestinian delegation, told Reuters.

Mr. Sanbar put the number of Palestinian exiles and refugees at about three million. He said the number of returnees will be a matter for negotiation.

Canada chairs the working group. The other participants

are: The United States, Russia, France, Finland, Egypt, Netherlands, Denmark, China, Britain, Belgium, Austria, Algeria, Japan, Oman, Norway, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Jordan, Italy, Ireland, India, Greece, Germany, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, Turkey, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Portugal, Kuwait, the European Community and U.N. organisations.

Mr. Beilin said on arrival here Monday the future of Palestinian refugees who fled their homes in 1948 would not be discussed either in Cairo or in Tunis.

"We will start discussing that subject two years after the implementation of the Washington agreement, when we begin discussing a permanent agreement," he said.

High on the agenda will be the reunification of split Palestinian families, which Israel has agreed to discuss for the first time.

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Two U.S. economists win Nobel prize in economics

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Two U.S. economists, Robert Fogel of the University of Chicago, and Douglass North of Washington University in St. Louis, won the Nobel memorial prize in economics Tuesday.

Dr. Fogel's foremost work concerns the role of railways in the economic development of the United States; he also showed that slavery was economically efficient, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in awarding the equivalent of \$825,000.

Dr. North, 72, has studied the long-term development of the United States and Europe, and in recent work analysed the role institutions play in economic growth. In an article on productivity in ocean-shipping, for example, "he shows that organisational changes played a greater role than technical changes," said the academy.

Dr. Fogel, 67, and Mr. North won the prize "for having renewed research in economic history by applying economic theory and quantitative methods, in order to explain

economic and institutional change," said the academy.

The academy said they were "leading figures within the field of 'new economic history'."

The award brought the number of American winners to 21 out of 34 since the prize was established in 1968 by the Central Bank of Sweden. Dr. Fogel is also the seventh winner from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Fogel's methodological approach has increased our knowledge of an institution's operation and disintegration and (renewed) methods of research," said the academy.

His books on railways and slavery have forced researchers to reconsider earlier accepted results, said the academy.

Dr. North "has pointed out that economic, political and social factors must be taken into account if we are to understand the development of those institutions that have played a role for economic growth and fluctuation in population growth led to institutional changes," the academy said.

Dr. Fogel posed hypotheses, and checked them. He carried out an in-depth study of the importance railroads played in U.S. development, and showed what would have happened if an alternative transport system had been used instead. He found the difference would have been less than earlier researchers had thought.

The academy, calling Dr. North "one of the pioneers in the new institutional economics," said in several books, he maintains that new institutions arise when groups in a society see a possibility of increasing their income, but prevailing institutional factors prevent this from happening.

For example, the economic development in Western Europe, from the middle ages to the 18th century, show that changes in relative prices and fluctuation in population growth led to institutional changes, the academy said.

The speedier industrialisation in England and the Netherlands depended upon the fact that certain conservative institutions, such as the Guilds, were weak," said the academy.

Private property rights were also guaranteed in those countries, as opposed to Spain, where there was less institutional innovation and more stagnation, Dr. North holds.

In his latest book, Institutions, Institutional Changes, and Economic Performance,

published in 1990, Dr. North poses the fundamental question of why some countries are rich, and others are poor, the academy said.

Peter Englund, an economics professor at Uppsala University and member of the academy's Nobel committee, said Dr. Fogel's theory about slavery's economic efficiency was controversial. "He was misunderstood, others thought he was defending slavery as an institution," said Dr. Englund.

He said the winners studied economic history, using two different methods. Dr. North was more speculative, underlining institutions, rather than technological innovations, Dr. Englund said.

"The speedier industrialisation

French unions disrupt transport in jobs protest

PARIS (R) — Strikes by public service workers, challenging French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur over record unemployment and wage restraint, caused widespread disruption to rail, air and postal services Tuesday.

Traffic jams built up in many cities in the morning rush hour as commuters took to the roads to try to get to work and demonstrations were expected to worsen the chaos.

Traffic was reduced by two-thirds in most of the country and a ground staff strike forced Air France to cancel half of its medium-haul flights. Postal services were patchy.

The widely-observed strikes were called by the major unions Force Ouvrière (F.O.) and the communist-led General Labour Confederation (CGT) to protest against job cuts, privatisation plans and an employment bill they say cuts into workers rights.

"France is heading for the abyss in some sectors... this (government) policy is plunging France deeper into crisis," CGT leader Louis Vianet said in a radio interview.

By midday, five metro lines had been completely halted.

Strikers cut road access to the Air France terminal at Paris' main Charles de Gaulle Airport, forcing passengers to walk with their luggage. The airline said long-haul flights

were not affected by the strike by ground staff.

A 32-hour strike called by five rail unions reduced commuter services. The loss-making state railway SNCF cut main line traffic by up to two-thirds in most of the country.

Traffic jams built up in many cities in the morning rush hour as commuters took to the roads to try to get to work and demonstrations were expected to worsen the chaos.

In Paris, traffic on the suburban rail and RER underground networks was cut by between 30 and 60 per cent. The stoppage began to affect urban metro trains from mid-morning.

By midday, five metro lines had been completely halted.

Strikers cut road access to the Air France terminal at Paris' main Charles de Gaulle Airport, forcing passengers to walk with their luggage. The airline said long-haul flights

were not affected by the strike by ground staff.

"One swallow doesn't make a summer... but we shouldn't dismiss these indications, which are hard facts," he said.

The unions' day of national protest "against unemployment and for jobs" was the first serious challenge to Mr. Balladur's centre-right government which took over from the

Socialists in general elections last March.

They say an employment bill passed by the National Assembly last week is lopsided in favour of employers and will only add more jobless. The five-year bill, now before the senate (upper house), encourages flexible working hours and cuts employers' payroll taxes on low-paid staff.

"Wake up. Show you can change things," F.O. head Marc Blondel said in a radio call to workers. "Tomorrow will be too late, unemployment will still be higher."

Mr. Balladur has sought to placate the unions by consulting them on employment policy and condemning public sector layoffs, while imposing a series of austerity measures.

Civil servants have been denied regular pay rises for the rest of this year.

South Korean depositors rush to register real names under new policy

SEOUL (AFP) — Depositors queued Tuesday at financial institutions in South Korea to meet a deadline to register their real names on accounts after a government ban on alias transactions.

Officials, meanwhile, promised to speed up money market reforms.

Tuesday marked the end of a two-month grace period for identifying the real ownership of all accounts at banks and short-term financing companies. Stock dealings under false names also became illegal.

Finance Minister Hong Jae-Hyung said the ban on false-name accounts, announced by decree on Aug. 12, was a "big success."

The money market had successfully absorbed the impact from the radical measure, Mr. Hong said, adding that concerns over capital flight, real estate speculation or a stock market crash turned out to be groundless.

"With strong support from the people, the real-name system is rapidly taking firm root," he said.

The government, however, had to take a series of steps aimed at easing anxiety among the holders of false name accounts, retracting earlier threats of tax probes of most of such accounts.

The watering down of the

Indonesia eyes natural gas for long-term energy

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's President Suharto emphasised Tuesday the importance of natural gas for his country's long-term energy needs and called for expert help to find fresh deposits and phase out fuel oils in some sectors.

"For long-term purposes, we will try to replace fuel oils with natural gas... for household, power generation industries and transportation," said President Suharto, opening the fourth Jakarta International Energy Conference.

"For this reason, therefore, we greatly need the services of energy experts, especially for conducting studies," he said.

The three-day conference, in tandem with an Indonesian Petroleum Association meeting, will also be addressed by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) President Jean Ping of Gabon and Secretary-General Subroto.

"We are today one of the major oil-exporting countries but with the present rate of consumption it is predicted that by the end of the coming decade we will become one of the oil importing nations," President Suharto, said of OPEC-member Indonesia.

"We will consistently... conserve and diversify our energy resources. In this connection, the utilisation of natural gas becomes one of the impressive examples. In order to meet the growing demands, we must continue to encourage exploration (to find) natural gas deposits as well as new oil re-

serves," he added.

Indonesia, the world's biggest archipelago, has natural gas reserves estimated at 104 trillion standard cubic feet (SCF). Official figures show production has nearly doubled in the past five years to an estimated 2.6 trillion SCF in 1992.

Industry sources say Indonesia, which produces about 1.3 million barrels per day of crude oil and is the world's largest liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter, has total recoverable oil reserves of about six billion barrels.

Indonesia relies on gas and oil exports for 31 per cent of total export revenue. LNG exports exceeded \$4 billion 1992.

State-owned Pertamina said in July Indonesia would be able to meet LNG demand from Japan, its biggest market, and other areas for at least another 20 years.

President Suharto made no mention of widely anticipated incentives for oil firms to seek fresh oil and gas deposits in remote high-risk areas such as alimantan, in Indonesian borneo, and Irian Jaya, bordering Papua New Guinea.

Mines and Energy Minister Ida Bagus Sudjana told reporters Monday that fresh incentives would be unveiled soon.

Industry sources said last week that some output sharing splits were likely to be reduced to as low as 65-35 per cent in Pertamina's favour from 80-20 per cent and that the government might be considering easier tax regimes.

and gas development and forestry.

"Let's be frank, Russia is a unique case for the Japanese market," he said, adding in a bid to relax the atmosphere that Japan's economic strength proved that "the Japanese people had obviously caught the virus of genius."

"Even if there are good proposals, they don't tend to materialise easily," Gaishai Hiraiwa told the Russian leader during a luncheon in Tokyo Hosted by seven Japanese ministers.

"Yegor Gaidar here can confirm to you that commitments will be kept," he said, referring to first deputy premier in charge of economic reforms who was also at the luncheon.

"From now on, he will be responsible for each project. If everything goes well, he will share the benefits. If not, he will be buried with those projects which fail," Mr. Yeltsin said.

"How is that we have not yet created a partnership? have you lost your interest or self-confidence?" the burly Russian president asked, raising his voice.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Bystanders in a large series of events could make themselves known to you today or you could get an indication of the role they are to play in the future so be aware of even the most minor influences.

ARIES: (March 21-to-April 19) Get rid of whatever secret annoyances possess you and do it by tackling them in a well-rounded and conscientious manner.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You find more than the usual links in being able to put your special ideas across so have patience and perseverance in doing so, tonight soothe an upset companion.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have in mind for building up a new accord at your residence will not be easy so think twice before making any drastic changes there.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Think about what you can do to calm down an irate usually ally for a spark of discord could cause a flame of discord to become noticeable.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Take some time out to economise where possible and to make a better budget for yourself through lopping off some unnecessary expenses.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Find out what you can do from various means to gain your ends with less worry and efforts and then you can avoid forcing issues but relax tonight.

THE BETTER HALF

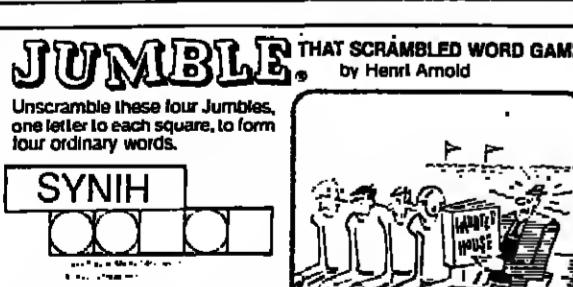
By Harris

HARRIS 7-18



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A

OF

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MILKY CURVE FUNGUS ABSURD

Answer: This calls for the army - A BUGLE

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword

by Dan Johnson



German constitutional court clears way for Maastricht Treaty

KARLSRUHE, Germany (Agencies) — Germany's Constitutional Court gave the green light Tuesday for the country's ratification of the Maastricht Treaty for closer European union.

The much-awaited decision clears the way for the treaty to go into effect across the European Community (EC) as early as next month.

Germany is the last remaining member of the 12 European Community states that has still to deposit the instruments of ratification, although its two houses of parliament voted largely in favour of Maastricht last December.

The move has been held up by complaints to the Karlsruhe court that the treaty was incompatible with the German constitution.

Britain ratified the controversial treaty for closer European political, economic and monetary union at the beginning of August.

The eight judges of the court said they had considered five complaints against the treaty but had retained only one, concerning fears that closer European union as outlined in the pact would impinge on German sovereignty in violation of Article 38 of the constitution.

This article states that members of the Bundestag (lower house of parliament) are freely elected, representative of the whole German people and subject only to their conscience.

The court held that this "democratic principle" was inviolable, and thus could not be undermined by Germany joining a supranational community.

In a concession to opponents of the treaty, the court said: "Substantially weighty duties and responsibilities must remain with the unseizable sovereign rights."

If the European institutions or organs were to exploit the treaty in a way not covered by the German legislative ratification of it, that would render the resulting acts not binding under German law.

Trading on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange saw a sudden surge of extra activity Tuesday morning, dealers said, out of apparent relief at the court's ruling. The mark weakened slightly, however.

Germany Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Tuesday the Maastricht Treaty could go into effect on Nov. 1.

He said the decision by Ger-

many's Federal Constitutional Court, the last step before Bonn can ratify the document, meant the government could soon deposit the treaty in Rome.

"The treaty can go into effect on Nov. 1," he said.

In Brussels, EC President Belgium Tuesday welcomed the decision by the German court, and announced a summit of EC leaders for Oct. 29.

Belgium Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene said in a statement he hoped the treaty would now come into force on Nov. 1.

The Belgian statement said the Oct. 29 summit would focus on steps toward creating monetary union and a common EC foreign and security policy.

It said the German court's approval of the treaty could mean a relaunching for Europe, and that this must be done hand in hand with boosting economic growth, safeguarding competitiveness and promoting jobs.

The presidency specifically promised that in putting the treaty into effect and in drawing up a strategy for growth and employment priority would be given to the well-being of EC citizens.

Serbs attack Muslim lines around Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — Serb forces besieging Sarajevo pounded Muslim front lines with artillery fire overnight in the upsurge of fighting around the Bosnian capital, U.N. peacekeepers said Tuesday.

Around 150 shells hit positions occupied by government forces, according to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

U.N. spokesman Ziba Jiyane warned a referendum should not be used as a delaying tactic.

"President De Klerk has got no right or authority to decide on such fundamental questions," he said.

The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, Zvuk De Beer, said he would not oppose the poll, but said he had no reason to vote twice on essentially the same question.

"I don't know what the president thinks he is going to achieve through a referendum that he is not going to achieve by going to an election," he said.

University of Cape Town political analyst Robert Schrire said Mr. De Klerk's suggestion was a sign of weakness and uncertainty.

"This is the crunch point. Mr. De Klerk's political position is obvious weaker than we were aware," he said.

Mr. Schrire said, however, the referendum could help to identify the major political forces in a country where the black majority has never been allowed to vote.

Inkhatheli formed a new "Inkhatheli" last week with white separatists and other black homeland leaders committed to a federation with guaranteed autonomy for ethnic regions.

De Klerk's referendum plan gets cool response

CAPE TOWN (R) — Political leaders and analysts Tuesday gave a cool reception to President F. W. De Klerk's proposal for a deadlock-breaking referendum on democracy.

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party warned immediately that democracy was too far advanced for Mr. De Klerk to take a unilateral decision on any national poll.

Mr. De Klerk told supporters of his ruling National Party at a rally in Stellenbosch Monday the withdrawal of all right-wing groups from the multi-party democracy forum had undermined its credibility.

Black and white conservatives pulled out of the talks about a transition from white rule and set up the freedom alliance as a rival forum for change.

"We are standing at a crossroads in negotiation," Mr. De Klerk said. "It would even not be an exaggeration to talk of a possible crisis within the foreseeable future."

"A democrat, I believe there is no better instrument than a referendum under such circumstances," he said.

Initial right-wing reaction was mixed. The pro-apartheid Conservative Party rejected the notion of a referendum but it was not ruled out completely by General Constant Viljoen, the former defence force chief who heads the right-wing Afrikaner People's Front (AVF) alliance.

National Party sources told Reuters the referendum proposal was debated within the party for several weeks.

One source said a major purpose of the referendum could be to expose the numerical weakness of Mr.

China, U.K. end angry round of Hong Kong talks

PEKING (R) — China and Britain Tuesday ended a 13th round of talks on democratic reforms for Hong Kong with no sign of progress, closing a session in which diplomats left their anger boil over after months of fruitless argument.

Chief British negotiator Sir Robin McLaren, who traded verbal blows in public Monday with Vice Foreign Minister Jiang Enzhu, said the discussion had been "intense."

"I won't say we have made no progress but I am satisfied with the progress that we've made," Sir Robin told reporters after Tuesday's talks ended.

As usual, the only public joint statement made at the close of the talks was an announcement that the next round would take place in Peking on Oct. 20-21.

Unusually, however, the two sides this week broke into open squabbling in a sign of how sharp disagreements have become over British plans to make Hong Kong's political system more democratic before it returns to China in 1997.

Mr. Jiang set the angry tone for the dialogue Monday when he accused Britain of insincerity and said China would simply scrap the Hong Kong legislature after 1997 if no compromise was reached.

Mr. Jiang said the two sides were at a crossroads after six

months of talks. He said China felt a failure to reach agreement would represent "nothing extraordinary but simply give Peking a green light to push through its own agenda."

Mr. Jiang's statements were roundly criticized by Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten Tuesday, who said the remarks showed Peking lacked sincerity in the negotiating process.

Sir Robin repeated the charge Tuesday, saying his team had been surprised by the Chinese outburst.

"We intend to cooperate and we're slightly surprised if we hear statements suggesting that others don't regard cooperation as important as we do and give the impression that they may not take the transition quite as seriously," he said.

The talks centre on Mr. Patten's plans for limited democratic reform in Hong Kong elections in 1993 and 1995. But both sides now appear to be questioning the very basis of earlier bilateral agreements in Hong Kong's 1997 handover.

China's threat to dissolve the territory's legislature is seen as particularly worrying. The concept of a government which straddles the 1997 handover date has been called the "through train" and is seen as important to Hong Kong's stability.

MOSCOW (R) — Boris Yeltsin may decide to postpone December parliamentary elections and combine them at a later date with presidential polls, ITAR-TASS news agency quoted a senior presidential adviser as saying Tuesday.

"Simultaneous elections would confirm Mr. Yeltsin's intention to continue democratic changes," Georgy Satarov said.

TASS cited Mr. Satarov, one of a team of advisers, as saying he did not rule out the possibility that Mr. Yeltsin could set a new date for presidential elections on his return from a visit to Japan Wednesday.

Mr. Yeltsin called presidential elections for June and polls for a new parliament this December after ordering the abolition of the old legislature, the Supreme Soviet, last month.

Several close aides had ruled out simultaneous polls, saying they would plunge the country into chaos. But some officials acknowledge it would be difficult to arrange parliamentary polls by the December deadline.

Mr. Satarov said earlier presidential elections could help Mr. Yeltsin's image as a democratic leader, after the political turmoil of recent weeks.

President Yeltsin's supporters are confident of victory at parliamentary elections in December. But the poll is two months away and Moscow is under a state of emergency, militant opponents are banned and electoral blocks remain a twinkle in politicians' eyes.

Mr. Yeltsin's backers were due to meet at the weekend to decide on a common electoral front and a list for the election which will be held partly on the basis of proportional representation.

But that meeting of the "Russian Choice" grouping is in some doubt because, under the state of emergency, political rallies are banned.

"We are much better organized in the provinces than the centrists," said Mikhail Shneider, secretary of the nascent Russian Democratic Movement, an affiliate of "Russian Choice."

"With Yeltsin and Gaidar we have the strongest engine," though the December elections are for a new parliament and not the presidency, personalities will play the key role.

Yegor Gaidar, Russian Economics minister and architect of Mr. Yeltsin's economic reforms, has formed a "Russian Choice" grouping that embraces other key figures such as presidential aide Genady Burbulis.

President Eduard Shevardnadze has received a boost in his multi-front battle against armed opponents with the defection of a top aide to ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia and an offer by Abkhazian separatists to negotiate peace.

The defector, Igor Gaidar, recently joined ranks with Mr. Gamsakhurdia, becoming one of his military advisors after deserting Mr. Shevardnadze's camp where he had been one of the government's top military representatives in the struggle against separatists in Abkhazia.

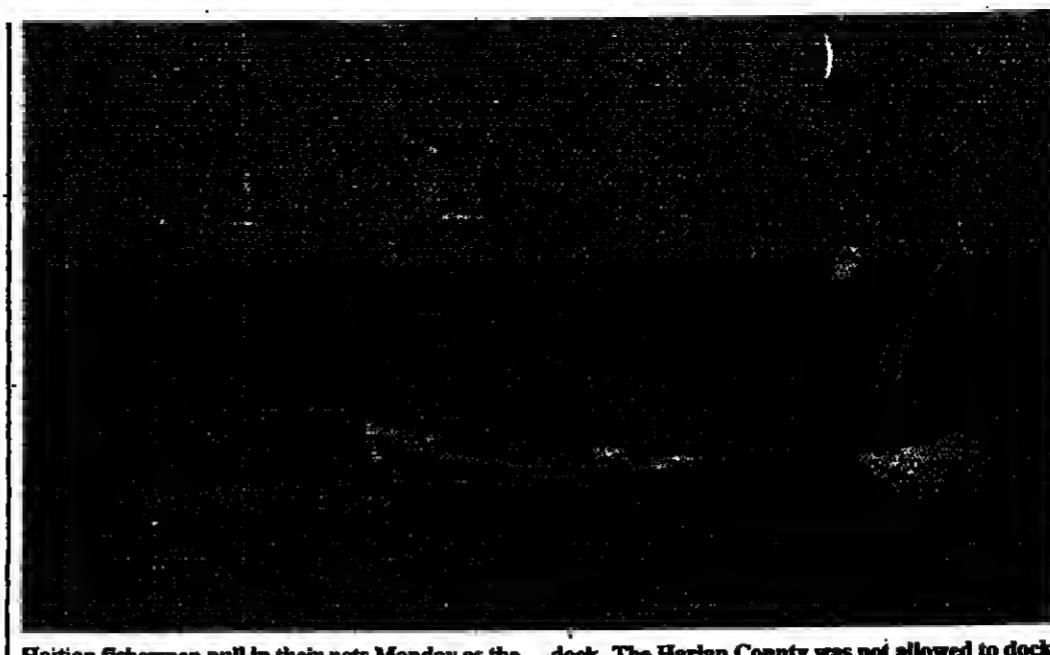
In the last two weeks, he had personally led several offensives against government forces in western Georgia, where the majority of Mr. Gamsakhurdia's supporters are based.

It was unclear what prompted his decision to go back to the government camp. But whatever the reason, the move provided a boost to the embattled Shevardnadze and could prove a major setback to Mr. Gamsakhurdia, who was toppled in January 1992 and has vowed to return to power in Tbilisi.

In announcing Mr. Shevardnadze's ministerial appointment Monday evening, Mr. Gamsakhurdia qualified him as a "professional in whom one can place a lot of hope."

The Georgian Defence Ministry meanwhile announced Tuesday that Mr. Gamsakhurdia's supporters had resumed their shelling of the small town of Samtredia, nestled between the Black Sea port of Poti and the city of Kutaisi, a government stronghold located on the main road leading to the Georgian capital Tbilisi.

Also Tuesday, Abkhazian separatists announced in an official communiqué carried by



Wool in a test-tube possible but sheep is still needed

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AFP) — A scientist has managed to grow wool in a laboratory but says sheep will still be necessary for some years to come. Louise Winder, a Lincoln University wool researcher, said Tuesday growing wool in-vitro was potentially a "very significant" development. Taking skin samples from sheep, she has had wool follicles extending by up to three millimetres in 12 days, based in nutrient mixes in plastic trays and stored in an incubator. The object of the laboratory experiments is to find out what makes wool grow and what can affect its fitness and strength. When these things are known, scientists can manipulate conditions to improve wool growth on the sheep's backs. Dr. Winder does not envisage wool being grown commercially in tissue culture and sheep being kept only for their meat. She hopes, that better stock management resulting from her work will help ensure the long-term future of sheep farming. Her research project had been generated by a Cambridge University project that succeeded in growing human hair, in-vitro.

U.S. puts fly on endangered species list

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A humble fly has been put on the U.S. list of endangered species. The Delhi Sands fly is the first fly to make it on the federal list more commonly associated with bears and the bald eagle. People who kill or harm any of the approximately 600 animals and plants on the list may be jailed for a year and fined \$200,000. The orange and brown spotted fly is endangered because of shrinking habitat. It is not known how many of the flies there are, but there were sightings in August and early September. In the wild, the flies live about a week, although they live twice that long in laboratory conditions. The 2.5-cm (one-inch) long flies live in areas that also support unique plants and animals which thrive in arid conditions, said Greg Ballmer, the scientist who proposed putting the fly on the endangered list.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council threatened to reimpose sanctions against Haiti, seconding a statement issued by Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington.

U.N. sanctions including an oil embargo were imposed in June. They were lifted, but not

reinstated. The Vienna-based IAEA has been trying to get Pyongyang to permit inspection of two sites north of the capital which the nuclear watchdog agency and many member countries believe form part of a covert atomic arms programme.

Two defectors claimed Tuesday North Korea is operating an underground nuclear plant to develop weapons in the northern province of Chagan.

Yun Wung and Pak Su-hyon told a news conference that they had heard about the existence of the underground nuclear plant from an engineer who worked at a Yongbyon nuclear plant.

Auction of movie costumes brings record prices

LOS ANGELES (R) — A gown worn by Vivien Leigh in "Gone With The Wind" went for \$33,350, while Errol Flynn's costume from Captain Blood brought \$31,050 at an auction of movie costumes, an auction spokesman said.

The deployment of Russian troops could pull Moscow deeper into Georgia's simmering conflicts.

Mr. Chikvaidze told Reuters in a telephone interview: "You know that we're in a hurry. Negotiations with Russia are still continuing but the forces could arrive in the next couple of weeks. They will be mainly Russian troops with a symbolic involvement of Azerbaijan and Armenia."

The deployment of the forces, under which the Tbilisi government is transferring broad responsibility for its security into the hands of Moscow, was agreed last week after Mr. Shevardnadze reluctantly brought his war-torn republic into the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"After our entry to the Commonwealth, maybe the situation will change," Mr. Chikvaidze said. "The Russian side's approach towards Georgia may change and they could start supporting our government."

He said it was unclear what form the Russian military presence would take in the northwestern town of Sukhumi which was seized two weeks ago by the Abkhaz secessionists.

Sukhumi fell despite a Russian-brokered ceasefire under which Georgia had withdrawn 80 per cent of its forces from the region. Georgia accused Moscow of masterminding the conflict.

Russian troops are still based in Sukhumi, "Mr. Chikvaidze said. Asked if he trusted Russia, he replied: "Do you trust Russia?"



Gamsakhurdia aide joins Shevardnadze

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has received a boost in his multi-front battle against armed opponents with the defection of a top aide to ousted president Zviad Gamsakhurdia and an offer by Abkhazian separatists to negotiate peace.

The defector, Igor Gaidar, recently joined ranks with Mr. Gamsakhurdia, becoming one of his military advisors after deserting Mr. Shevardnadze's camp where he had been one of the government's top military representatives in the struggle against separatists in Abkhazia.

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JPL in 1988

Sports

Wihdat face Sahab today in quarterfinals of Jordan Cup

By Aleen Banayan

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The quarterfinal round of the Jordan Cup, the third annual activity of the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF), begins Wednesday when Al Wihdat face Sahab in a most-awaited match by fans of both teams.

With work at Al Hussein Youth City Stadium still incomplete, Irbid's Al Hassan Sports City will host all but one of the competition's remaining matches which will run up to Nov. 14. Quarterfinal action concludes this week with Al Ramtha facing Al Ahli Thursday, while Al Qadsieh play Fuheis and titleholders, Al Faisali, clash with Al Jazireh Friday.

Soccer fans witnessed some surprising results in the round of 16 in the past week. The latest was Al Faisali's 5-2 thrashing of Al Arabi. Al Jazireh overcame Al Hussein in a 7-6 penalty shootout after the match ended in a 2-2 draw, while Al Ramtha were awarded an effortless 3-0 win over Al Jali who officials failed to come up with the team's shirts in the allocated time.

National team to begin training camp

The Kingdom's national soccer team will begin this week a training camp in Irbid in preparation for two upcoming matches with the national team of the United Arab Emirates.

The latest meeting of the JSF, now headed by His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, named the following as members of Jordan's national team: Milad Abbasi, Mohammad Abu Daoud, Mohammad Mahadin, Yousef Al Amouri, Ahmad Al Shaqran, Ahmad Abdul Qader, Mohammad A. Khazali, Isam Mahmood, Firas Al Khaleel, Subhi Awad, Subhi Suleiman, Hisham Abdul Munem, Jamal Abu Abd, Ra'd Al Monani, Mousa Shteyan, Badran Al Sbaqran, Aref Hussein, Jeries Tadros, Mohammad Al Ashhab, Jamal Mahnoud, Nart Yadaj, Yaser Mohammad, Marwan Al Shamali, Sami Jamil, Murad Al Horani, Ahmad Al Khazaleh, Maher Othman, Ali Zabi, Hussein Shananeh and Imad Al Zhagal.

The JSF also imposed a JD1,000 fine over Shahab Al Hussein Club for the unsportsmanlike conduct of their fans during the match against Sahab. All clubs and players were granted a pardon for most previous fines and suspensions during the past year.

Short's odds grow longer in chess title contest

LONDON (R) — British challenger Nigel Short prepared what could be his final onslaught against champion Gary Kasparov in Tuesday's 16th game of their world chess title match.

Kasparov, 30, leads the 24-game contest by an overwhelming 10½ points to 4½ after six wins and nine draws.

The Azri-born champion is just two points away from victory and a five-eighths share of the \$1.7 million (\$2.5 million) prize fund provided by the

Times newspaper.

Short, 28, enjoyed something of a renaissance in the middle of the match, drawing games 10 to 14 and pushing for victory in most of them. But Kasparov struck back Saturday, scoring his fifth win out of eight when he had the advantage of the white pieces and the first move.

Short has efficiently generated winning chances when he has played with the first move but has failed to capitalise on a series of golden opportunities.

Man admits stabbing Seles

HAMBURG, Germany (R) — A man who stabbed tennis star Monica Seles with a meat-trimming knife told a court Tuesday he did not help to kill his idol Steffi Graf.

German Guenther Parche, 39, admitted a charge of grievous bodily harm and said he had attacked Seles because she had replaced Graf as the world's top-ranked player.

Parche told a court he had not planned to kill Seles when he stabbed her in the back as she sat on her chair during a changeover at the Hamburg Open on April 30.

"The charge against me is completely correct. I only wanted to hurt Monica Seles. In no way did I want to hurt her badly or kill her," Parche said in a statement read to the

court by his lawyer.

"I did it because I could not bear it that Monica Seles had driven Stefanie Graf away from the number one spot in the rankings."

A distraught Seles was taken from the court on a stretcher after Parche jumped from the stands and stabbed her during their quarterfinal match against Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva. Parche was arrested at the courthouse.

Florida-based Seles, who has been in Serbia, has not played since the attack and has slipped to fourth in the world rankings.

The 19-year-old Seles is expected to make a comeback in time to defend her Australian Open title in Melbourne in January.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HISCH
© 1988 Goren Bridge Inc.

A VINTAGE GEM

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ Q 10 6 2
V K 5 4
10 8 5
A J 4
EAST
A 9 8 5 4 K 7 3
V Q 8 3
V Void
O 9 7 8 3 2
+ 8 4 2
SOUTH
Void
Q A J 10 8 7
O A K Q J 4
K Q 6
WEST
2 V Pass
4 ♦ Pass
6 V Pass Pass

The bidding:
South West North East
2 V Pass 3 V Pass
4 ♦ Pass 5 ♦ Pass
6 V Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of ♦

How good were the players of yesterday? It took Howard Schenken about 10 seconds to come up with the winning play of this hand from a team match almost 5 years ago.

After a forcing two-bid and two cue-bids, North-South reached the excellent contract of six hearts in quick time. West led the ace of spades, ruffed by Schenken, who cashed the ace of hearts in no time

flat. When East discarded a club, the rest was easy.

The jack of trumps was covered

by the queen and taken by the king. Another round of trumps was drawn, leaving West with the master trump. Declarer simply started running diamonds. West could ruff any time that declarer chose, but declarer had the rest of the tricks.

What if West had shown out on the ace of hearts? Declarer would still have run the jack to East's queen. East could force declarer to ruff another spade, but declarer would ruff, cash the ten of hearts, cross to the ace of clubs and draw the last trump with the king of hearts. The rest of the tricks could then be claimed.

To appreciate Schenken's rapid analysis, consider what happened at the other table. In the contract and opening lead were the same. Declarer ruffed and led a low heart to the king and could not recover. Declarer tried to concede a trump by continuing with a low trump to the king, but after winning the queen, West simply forced declarer with another spade. That left South with a bare ace, while West held the guard nine. Down one.

Taylor springs surprises in England team

ROTTERDAM (Agencies) — England manager Graham Taylor made five key and dramatic changes Tuesday to his side for Wednesday's crucial World Cup qualifier against the Netherlands.

As expected, striker Alan Shearer comes in for his first international in 11 months but there is no room for Ian Wright whose place goes to Arsenal team mate Paul Merson, playing only his second international of England's last 14.

Manchester United defender Paul Parker replaces Liverpool's Rob Jones at right back after nearly 18 months out of favour. Tony Dorigo comes in for injured Captain Stuart Pearce at left back and Carlton Palmer returns to the midfield in place of suspended star Paul Gascoigne.

Wright, who was expected to team up with Shearer in attack for the potentially decisive European Group 2 match after recovering from a slight knee strain, is on the substitutes' bench.

Queen's Park Rangers striker Les Ferdinand, man of the match in the 3-0 win over Poland at Wembley last month is another absentee, leaving a gap which has been filled by Blackburn's Shearer.

But in dropping Wright and Jones as well, Taylor has drastically altered the shape of the side that beat Poland, sparking memories of England's disastrous 2-0 defeat in Norway in June when the manager also made sweeping changes in personnel and tactics.

Wright had proved his recovery from a knee injury with three days' training.

Parker, whose inclusion brings to four the contribution of champions Manchester United to the side, is apparently preferred for his marking strengths.

Defeat in Rotterdam will almost certainly put England out of the 1994 U.S. finals.

The real gamble comes with

the recall of Palmer in midfield to fill the void left by Gascoigne.

Taylor had been expected to use Sheffield Wednesday's Andy Sinton or Rangers' experienced midfielder Trevor Steven to make up for the loss of his most creative player.

Instead he has gone for a destroyer in Palmer, usually a centre back with Sheffield Wednesday, who will be expected to help Paul Ince break up Dutch attacks.

France look to their fearsome forwards to book their tickets for the World Cup finals when they take on Israel in a European Group 6 qualifier Wednesday. Manchester United's Eric Cantona has netted five times and Jean-Pierre Papin of AC Milan has bagged four goals in the qualifiers so far as the French have moved to within two points of a berth in the finals.

The struggling Israelis, bottom of the six-team group and without a win in seven games, should be no match at the Parc Des Princes for a French side unbeaten in more than a year.

But French trainer Gerard Houllier is expected to boost his attack by lining up the league's top scorer David Ginola alongside the exiled duo in an attempt to overrun a side which has already let in 21 goals.

France still have a next match against Bulgaria next month but Houllier aims to wrap things up Wednesday evening.

"I don't want to use up our right to afford a slip-up," he said. "We must show how much we have progressed and impose our style of play."

The 26-year-old Paris St Germain forward Ginola is a highly gifted ballplayer whose chances have been limited by the success of the Papu-Cantona partnership. He has

played just five times for France and has yet to score.

But his form for the Parisian

league leaders has been magical and he feels ready to stake a claim for a regular place.

"I've shown I can play without problems alongside (George) Weah, Rai and Valdo (at PSG)," he said. "I don't see why I couldn't play alongside Papin and Cantona."

Ireland confident

Ireland, beaten at home just once in seven years, are confident of winning their ticket to the World Cup finals against old rivals Spain Wednesday — even though they will be without injured captain Andy Townsend.

Spanish coach Javier Clemente has brought a squad of tried and trusted attackers for a match his side must not lose to stay within reach of qualifying for the finals in the United States next year.

WORLD CUP

If history is any guide Spain might fancy their chances having won 12 of the 23 matches since their last World Cup in 1982.

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A draw would force Spain to beat Denmark to go through.

Italy seeks a win

Juventus striker Roberto Baggio, Italy's outstanding player, is prepared to play through the pain barrier as the injury-hit Italians seek a win over Scotland in a vital World Cup qualifier Wednesday.

"I have to be fit. This game is simply too important to miss," said the pony-tailed Baggio, struggling with a knee injury in the past few days.

A leading candidate for the European Footballer of the Year title, Baggio has netted 19 times in 30 internationals and was the pick of the Italian side which beat Estonia 3-0 last month.

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Three-times world champions Italy need to win their last two World Cup qualifiers — against Scotland in Rome Wednesday and at home to Portugal in November — to be certain of a place in the 1994 World Cup finals.

They are currently second in European Group 1 with 12 points from eight games, a point behind Switzerland. Portugal are a further two points behind with a game in hand.

But Ireland are no longer the international pushovers they once were.

They reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup in 1990 and manager Jack Charlton has built a team that now rarely loses.

Their 10 World Cup qualifiers so far have produced seven wins and three draws and they start the match as favourites. Ireland top the Group 3 standings with 17 points from ten matches, followed by Denmark on 16 and Spain on 15.

Ireland could still qualify if they lose Wednesday provided they beat Northern Ireland in their last qualifier on Nov. 17.

Finland have no illusions about their World Cup qualifying game against Sweden Wednesday — their coach is not even sure if he wants to look at the score.

Sweden by contrast, with the incentive of securing a place in

the World Cup finals, have history on their side to win the Group 6 match despite the absence of three Italian-based players.

The Swedes trounced Finland 6-0 in their last encounter in Stockholm, a friendly before the 1990 World Cup finals.

Their last competitive meeting, in the World Cup last September, ended with Sweden winning 1-0 in Helsinki. And since February 1982 when Finland beat Sweden 2-1 in a friendly, the countries have met five times — with Sweden winning all five matches.

Finnish coach Tommy Lindholm is under no illusions about the task facing his side. "We should be able to get a decent result if we play well, in that case I will dare to look at the score after the game," he said.

"But if we don't play well, I won't want to see the final score," he added.

Finland have long since been eliminated from a place in the finals in the United States next year, but Sweden will qualify if they win.

Switzerland will qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1966 if they beat Portugal Wednesday — but they'll need to break down a formidable defensive barrier first.

Carlos Queiroz, Portugal's coach, is sending out a defensive-looking team to take the sting out of the Swiss attack and to try and frustrate a team he admits is on a high after a 14-match unbeaten run.

Switzerland's English coach Roy Hodgson knows what to expect from a game Portugal dare not lose to keep alive their own outside chances of qualifying. He predicts a tough match but is totally confident his team will reach next year's finals in the United States and end a 27-year wait to qualify for the finals for a seventh time.

Belgium and Romania go into their World Cup qualifying clash Wednesday dented by possible key absences which could make a lottery of the outcome.

Both teams are likely to make last minute decisions and Belgium have been further unnerved by a plague of cockroaches.

The Belgians, who need just one point from their final two

games to ensure their place in

next year's finals in the United States, had a shock when they were given rooms in the villa of executed Romanian Communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu Monday night and were sent running by a plague of cockroaches.

A Belgian spokesman said they found the antenna-waving beetles swarming over the floors and beds so they fled the mansion beside Lake Snagov and were given rooms in another villa.

Belgium top group 4 with 14 points from eight matches, followed by Romania, 11 from eight, Czechoslovakia 10 from eight and Wales, who also have 10 points from eight games.

If Belgium should win Romania's chances of qualifying would nosedive, but a win for the home side would put them in a very strong position against Wales to play.

One boost for Romania was that midfielder Ilie Dumitrescu returns after missing the previous match against the Faroes through suspension.

Bayern look ready to launch bid for Bundesliga's top spot

BONN (R) — With Lothar Matthaeus warming to his new Libero role with every game, Bayern Munich look ready for a serious bid to return to their position at the top of German soccer after three disappointing seasons.

Bayern's 4-0 win at Cologne at the weekend issued a clear warning of intent to league leaders Eintracht Frankfurt. Although there is a six-point gap between Eintracht and fourth-placed Bayern, the Bavarians have looked in superb form.

The Munich side have won the Bundesliga title a record 12 times but their last triumph was in 1990.

Matthaeus's sneezeless switch from midfield to libero at club and international level is typical of a new determination.

FURNISHED FLAT FOR RENT

Ground floor flat consists of 2 furnished bedrooms, salon and utilities, with central heating, telephone, garden and garage.

Jiang cautions Rabin against using force

'Israel sold U.S. technology to China'

Combined agency dispatches

PEKING — Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin on Tuesday pledged China's commitment to Middle East peace and cautioned visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin against using or threatening force to settle disputes.

Mr. Jiang, who is also president, was quoted by the official Xinhua news agency as saying his hour-long meeting with Mr. Rabin was of great significance and would bring relations to a "new high."

"While China and Israel are at two ends of Asia, the Chinese people traditionally hold friendly feelings towards their Jewish counterparts," Mr. Jiang was quoted as saying.

"Friendship and cooperation between the two peoples not only benefit the two nations, but have served to promote peace and development in Asia and the world in general as well."

Echoing Premier Li Peng's cautious comments to Mr. Rabin on Monday, Mr. Jiang did not go on record as pledging to use China's influence with Iran and Arabs to encourage their support for the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord.

"China will continue to work for an early realisation of complete peace in the Middle East," Mr. Jiang said, but noted that "more time and redoubled efforts" were

needed before a comprehensive settlement could be reached.

Mr. Jiang politely cautioned Mr. Rabin against using force to achieve peace.

"Progress made in the Middle East peace process once again showed that disputes between nations can only be settled properly through political negotiations," Mr. Jiang said.

"The practice of resorting to force or threat of force will only deepen the conflicts between nations and thus run counter to a fundamental resolution."

Despite the caution, there have been persistent reports of Sino-Israeli military ties dating back to long before their establishment of diplomatic relations 22 months ago.

A U.S. Senate report due out this week will say Israel sold advanced military equipment worth several billion dollars to China in the past decade in violation of U.S. regulations, NBC television reported on Monday.

Mr. Rabin, who doubles as defence minister, was expected to hold talks with Chinese Defence Minister Chi Haotian. But officials from both countries declined to give details or discuss their politically sensitive military ties.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Rabin laid a wreath at the Monument to the People's Heroes in Tiananmen Square, visited a car factory and inaugurated an international aerospace show, where Israeli firms also had a stand.

He has repeatedly stressed the visit's importance, noting that it is his first to a non-



VICTORIOUS ARRIVAL: Benazir Bhutto, leader of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which won the highest number

of votes in Pakistan's general elections this week, chats with women party workers upon her arrival in Islamabad Tuesday for talks on forming a coalition government (AFP photo)

Implicit criticism of labour policy of Gulf states sparks heated debate

Kuwait denies 'discriminate' hiring after crisis

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A heated debate

broke out Tuesday at a meet-

ing of a U.N. agency over a

technical report which some of

the Gulf states saw as implicitly

accusing them of discriminating

against nationals of Arab

countries perceived as having

sympathised with Iraq during

the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

It was the first time that the

summary expulsions of Jordanians,

Palestinians, Yemenis and

Sudanese from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during and after

the Gulf crisis were discussed

at a public forum attended by

both the dispatching and re-

ceiving ends of manpower in

the Arab World.

The four countries directly

affected by the sudden ter-

mination of hundreds of

thousands of their nationals

working in the Gulf appeared

to have diplomatically opted to

be bystanders in Tuesday's de-

bate over the issue.

The debate came at a regular

meeting of the Technical Com-

mittee of the Economic and

Social Commission for West-

ern Asia (ESCPWA) after its

secretariat presented the re-

sults of a "Survey on Economic

and Social Developments in

the ESCWA Region, 1992."

No delegate from the four

made any comment on the

report's section on labour poli-

cies, and some of them referred

to other parts of the report,

which dealt with overall economic

activities.

Delegates from Saudi Ara-

bia, Qatar and Kuwait pro-

tested against a paragraph that

"Therefore we have reser-

vations over the paragraph which

accuses us of discrimination,"

he said, adding that he was

determined to seek amend-

ments to the document.

He also implied that

ESCPWA should not worry ab-

out the labour problem since

the overall number of nationals

from the member states of the

agency remained the same.

But Nabil Al Khatib, a

Lebanese U.N. expert who su-

ervised the survey, coun-

tered: "While the overall total

may not have changed, the

components have changed."

He said the total number

was insignificant in this context

since some traditional man-

power exporters like Jordan

and Yemen found their national

denied employment while countries like Syria

and Egypt had a higher share

of the labour market.

He conceded that all the

four countries as well as the

employing countries were

ESCPWA members, but said it

was not the answer to the

problem since those countries

which are denied any share

are suffering.

Dr. Khalaf, a U.N. veteran,

emphasised that ESCPWA did

not politicise the issue and the

agency did not have a record of

bringing political issues into

economic and social develop-

ment.

"We presented an objective

analysis of the facts as they

were given to us," he said.

"We welcome corrections if

needed and information that

was not available to us ear-

lier," he added, but he did not

look very convinced that the

complaint bad any strong

or negative connotation.

Adnan Al Kandari, a senior

official from Kuwait's Ministry

of Finance, rejected the sug-

gestion that the Gulf states

were responsible for regional

unemployment because they

preferred Asians over Arabs.

"Asians were in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion (in August 1990)," said Mr. Kandari.

"Their number has not gone up after the liberation of Kuwait, and the overall num-

ber of Arab workers in Kuwait

has not fallen either."

"Therefore we have reser-

vations over the paragraph which

accuses us of discrimination,"

he said, adding that he was

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power exporters like Jordan

and Yemen found their national

denied employment while countries like Syria

and Egypt had a higher share

of the labour market.

This explained the higher

number of non-Arab expatri-

ates workers in the Gulf states,

Mr. Khalaf told the meeting,

calling for "such considera-

tions to be taken into account"

while ESCPWA prepares its re-

ports.

Wahed Al Asali, a senior

official from the Foreign

Ministry of Saudi Arabia,

argued that governments

should be held accountable for

the shift in employment poli-

cies in general.

"It is an affair where the

private sector makes its own

decisions without government

interference," he told the meet-

ing.

Speaking to the Jordan

Times during a break, Mr.

Kandari of Kuwait admitted